Join in the celebrations Details and token PAGE 33

No. 65,510



Canada dry Peace behind



Top writers Bernard Levin

presents opera for all, Pl6 Valerie Grove meets the heroine of new Labour, Pl4



Why legs will never be

Old-fashioned societies strike back

Interest rate cut in home loans battle

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE Nationwide Building Society yesterday cut its mortgage rate for a million borrowers in a surprise move to boost the housing market and strike a blow for oldfashioned mutual societies as its rivals race to become

The half-point cut in the home loan rate and a corresponding increase in the interest it pays its five million savers will cost the society about half of its £400 million amuai profits.

The money is being invested in customer loyalty in the face of the recent merger maniathat has brought Er,000 handours to members of societies that have combined or announced plans to become pub-

liciy quoted companies.

The Nationwide wants to persuade its members that by sticking with its mutual status it can use its profits to offer benefits that cannot be



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MEET THE NEW BOSS Bruce Soringsteen. tolksinger, in the Magazine

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matched by rivals who have to

account to shareholders. Both the Halifax and the Woolwich intend to convert next year and to give their savers and borrowers free shares worth an average of £900 to £1,000. Last night they.

were considering whether to match or better the Nation-wide move, but other lenders will sooner or later be forced to follow suit, pushing down the cost of home loans to their lowest levels for thirty years. Nationwide borrowers with

a £50,000 repayment mortgage will be about £13 a month better off when the new standard rate of 6.99 per cent comes into effect in April. This is still not the lowest variable rate on offer, however, and there are many discounts or fixed rates available as lenders chase borrowers.

Brian Davis, the Nationwide chief executive, said that if others followed his society's move customers in general would benefit by about £2 billion. We have a clear commitment to remain a our customers will be better off," he said. "We have no outside shareholders to satisfy and so we can afford to run our business prodently on

narrower margins." Geoffrey Lister, the chief executive of Bradford & Bingley, which has also sworn

to remain a mutual organ ation, said: "We are delighted that another major building society has taken steps to demonstrate the benefits of mutuality by passing on a large slice of future profits to its members. No plc banks will be able to reduce profits in this way in order to benefit customers who must take second place to shareholders.7

Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at the City broker UBS, said: The Nationwide move will make life very difficult for plc lenders who will look uncompetitive. The stock market appeared to agree, and bank shares were down last night.

Not surprisingly, the banks disagreed. Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, which was the first society to convert to a bank in 1989, said. that the latest mortgage cuts were a short-term marketing ploy. It is the last gasp of mutuality and there will be a further fall-out of mergers and

acquisitions."
Michael Harden of the Members for Conversion action group said that building societies in general should change to public status as a matter of policy because the rewards on conversion "would heat any possible mumuality package of benefits that they could come up with".

Pennington, page 23



Those looking for a mortgage bargain have never had such a wide choice. Offers include:

Scarborough Building Society: 0.25% fixed for one year Northern Rock: 1.19% fixed until June 97 for first-time buvers Greenwich: 3.99% fixed for two years for first-time buyers Bradford & Bingley. 6.25% variable rate Direct Line 6.49% variable rate

Royal Bank of Scotland: 5.49% fixed for one year on 100% loan

Many societies are also offering "cashback" deals, including: Cheskire, up to £10,000; Northern Rock, up to £9,000; National & Provincial, up to £7,500; Bradford & Bingley and Alliance & Leicester, up to £6,000; Yorkshire, up to £4,500.



The Princess of Wales cradies a child suffering from cancer during her visit yesterday to the hospital in Labore founded by her host, Imran Khan. Page 3

Snowball rebuke over Prince

BY ALAN HAMILTON

PUPILS at Eton College have been issued with a stern reminder that throwing snowballs near the school is forbidden, after an incident in which Prince William was set upon by classmates and had his clothes filled with snow.

A gang of boys reportedly rounded on the Prince, 13, and bombarded him with snow, stuffing it down his back and front. One pupil was quoted as saying: "We thought it was awful fun; there weren't any rules about throwing snow, so it seemed perfectly all right." Yesterday a spokeswoman

for John Lewis, Eton's headmaster, said the no-snowball rule had nothing to do with any particular pupil. "Every are reminded that it is forbidden to throw snowballs within the school grounds, for reasons of safety. This rule has been in existence for 15 or

Old Etonians expressed dismay. "In my day, the 1950s, if it snowed, the beaks took us down to the Field (part of the college sports ground) and organised proper snowball fights," one said.



Fine, but we're not prepared to hand over our arms"

Peter Clowes freed after four years of 10-year sentence

By Frances Gibb. Richard Ford and Kate Alderson

PETER CLOWES, the former company director who de-frauded 18,000 mostly elderly investors of £16 million, was freed on parole yesterday after serving only four years of a ten-year jail term. The release was ordered by

the Home Secretary, who "reluctantly" bowed to a Parole Board recommendation which he said he was bound by law to accept.

Last night Michael Howard's decision provoked anger among investors who lost between £10,000 and £150,000 when Barlow Clowes International collapsed in 1988, owing investors £190 million. They said Clowes should have served the full ten years.

The investors had put their savings in what seemed like a safe haven of gilt-edged government securities and the collapse cost the Government £150 million in compensation.

Karen Reynolds, who with her husband invested £45,000 awarded in a medical negligence case, said: "Serving just four years is no come-uppance for what he did. The judicial system is not fair."

George Bleazard, who set up an action group after losing £10,000 of his pension money. said: "Clowes has served four vears and I don't believe that is sufficient for such a massive fraud. For 18 months we lost of not knowing if we would ever see the money again was intolerable."

Clowes. 52, of Aldington, Cheshire, was jailed for fraud and theft in 1992 after a sevenmonth trial that cost more than £6 million in legal aid. Customers were told that their money was being invested in government stock, but much of it was used to finance a life of luxury, including a French château and vineyard. a yacht, top-of-the-range cars and a luxury home.

Clowes was sentenced under the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which said that prisoners could be considered for parole a third of the way through their sentence. Now, half the sentence must be served before parole is considered.

Clowes' release was announced in the High Court directorship until 2007.

where his lawvers were embarking on a move to have the Home Secretary and the chairman of the Parole Board committed to prison for failing to meet a deadline of last

the same again, PAGE 5

Tuesday for a decision. The legal moves -described by Mr Justice Jowitt as "misconceived" and "quite improper" — were dropped when Clowes's lawyers heard that the board had reversed an earlier decision and recommended release. He refused to award costs.

The Parole Board originally refused Clowes parole last July and the High Court refused him leave to challenge the decision, upholding the board's view that he needed more time to come to terms



Clowes vesterday: "I've served my sentence

with his guilt and "examine his attrude to dishonesty". But in October he went to the Court of Appeal to overturn the ruling. Before the case came to trial, his lawyers and the Home Office agreed that the Parole Board would reconsider the case before Tuesday.

Yesterday Clowes, who was on resettlement leave from Sudbury Prison, Derbyshire, said: The main thing is that I have served my sentence, hopefully with dignity." He said that after his release he would continue to seek to get his conviction for theft and fraud overturned, adding: "I believe that my case is taking on a political dimension that has been unhealthy".

He will be now subject to a is is barred from holding any

Scott accuses ministers of distortion

BY PHILIP WEBSTER. POLITICAL EDITOR

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk

SIR RICHARD SCOTT dramatically entered the political battle over his report on the arms-to-Iraq affair last night by accusing ministers of selectively quoting his remarks to support their claims that the report had cleared them. in a surprising twist, Christopher Muttukumaru, secretary to the Scott inquiry, wrote to Ian Lang, President of the

that words used by Sir Richard at his post-publication press conference - words subsequently seized on by ministers to back their claim that there had been no conspiracy - had been taken out

Clearly implying that the judge is unhappy with the way ministers, including John Major, have seized on an answer he gave at the press confer-ence. Mr Muttukumaru says in his letter that "out of context one-line answers" are no sub-Board of Trade, suggesting

stitute for Sir Richard's con-sidered views in his report. Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, said last night that Mr Muttukumaru's letter revealed that the "Government's distortion of the Scott report is starting to unravel".

The judge's unexpected intervention gave a big boost to the Opposition parties, which are trying to keep the Scott affair boiling until Monday's debate in the Commons. The intervention came as Labour claimed to have forced

Kenneth Clarke to admit that William Waldegrave had misled MPs over the affair. A letter from the Chancellor

to Andrew Smith, the shadow Chief Secretary, appeared to accept that his deputy did mislead Parliament, although not intentionally. Mr Lang won strong back-

ing from Tory MPs for his ndling of the Government's Continued on page 2, col 5

Philip Howard, page 16

University club votes for women

By David Charter **EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT**

NEARLY two centuries of clubland tradition ended yesterday when male members of the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club voted to admit women on equal

terms. The latest battle for womens' rights in London's Pall Mall began when David But-ler, Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, whose great grandfather George helped found the Letters, page 17 | club in 1830, announced his

resignation in a letter to The Times in January last year. Days later 69 heads of Oxford and Cambridge colleges also

The result of a postal ballot

left the club in protest.

of the 3,333 full members declared yesterday was in favour of opening the oak-panelled doors to women by 2.012 votes to 345. Sir Bryan Nicholson, club chairman, said the result was "overwhelming" and hoped the club would progress into the century with "renewed vigour". Mr Butler's wife Marilyn

College, Oxford, said last night: We are both very pleased. Obviously, it is a great club with a great history and it should not have been in

this position." The club said 71 per cent of members voted. The last bal-lot, in 1993, was also in favour but was declared void under cent of members voted. There are currently 500 women associate members who are banned from the members



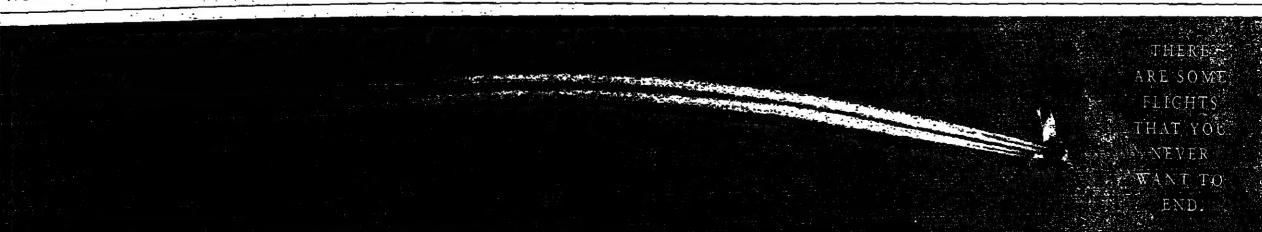
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Stuck at low ebb with the slick and the shallow

Hackney N & Stoke Newington): "The unemployment rate for black males between the age of 18 and 24 is 60 per cent. That is the official figure: the actual figure is much higher." Jacques Arnold (C. Grave-

sham): "Will the hon lady give way? She asked for it." Ms Abbott: "Not from you. sweetheart."

There are days, and yesterday was one, when picking the funny bits from the previous night's Hansard provides the only relief from a mood of despair about the work of

continuing futile, overblown exchanges between John Major and Tony Blair about the Scott report. The posturing here (on both sides) is simply tedious. We just switch off.

Nor was my despair provoked by any great issue of principle, any deception, any huge mistake, any shocking dereliction of duty. Politics would be more interesting if these were more common. No, the bleak mood arose

from weariness alone: from reporting one idiotic scrap too many. As I watched MPs discussing the foundering of the Sea Em-



MATTHEW PARRIS

press in Milford Haven, something snapped.

The Opposition strove to turn this into a party political matter. Though, as MPs spoke, the promised inquiry had not even begun, ministers were accused already of failure and deception, one MP demanding that the Secretary of State "say sorry".

The latter's promise of an urgent and thorough investigation was called 'appailingly

complacent". MPs who had come only yesterday to the complexities of five centuries law and practice of marine salvage. MPs who could not distinguish between port and starboard and whose knowledge of tides, tugs and towlines would hardly fill one side of a small election leaflet, leapt in with opinions as firm, and

that President Clinton was not

yet considering moves to ban Sinn Feln from raising funds in America after the collapse

It was also disclosed in a

report published last night that Michael Howard, the

Home Secretary, was advised

to maintain sweeping laws to

combat terrorism even before

the IRA ended its 17-month

He was given warning three

weeks before the IRA attack at

Docklands that terrorist org-

erful as ever, had developed a new mortar device and were

moving arms around North-

Paramilitary organisations continued to intimidate jurors

ern ireland.

of the IRA ceasefire.

days, the news media restricting ourselves to the sort of bite size chunks for butterfly minds we suppose our readers to prefer and which, if we persist in providing nothing else, they will learn to expect and politicians will learn to deliver. Here, however, uncutexcept that I have omitted the names of the two Labour MPs

criticised, is an extract from a

debate on Wednesday

batim at any length these

Steven Norris expresses it better than I can. I omit the names of his targets because my purpose is not to criticise.

have as it seems we expect an lose the next general election, the Torics will surely behave

The Minister for Transport in London (Mr Steven Norris): "One of the great advantages of Opposition is the out the slightest sense of responsibility. It has often been asserted that the less knowledge of a subject an Opposition Member has, the better he is able to set out an array of irrelevancies tangled together to form some basis of an argument. That is what we His speech could be summarised by the glorious phrase 'As soon as possible just is not soon enough. It is the sort of phrase of which the Opposition are extraordinarily fond, and I let it lie on the record in all its ludicrousness for others to judge.

"I have some experience of [another bon Member] on safety matters. He is the sort of man who would terrify the average adult at the prospect of crossing a road, such is his intation with turning any incident into a crisis, any crisis into a drama, and any drama

Tory feud

on single

currency

reopens

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

THE fragile Tory truce over a

single currency came under strain last night after one of

John Major's ministers had

defied him by speaking public-ly in favour of economic and

Euro-sceptics reacted an-

grily to the remarks by Anthony Nelson, a Trade Minister.

who called for a greater "clam-our" from business for the

scheme and said that a single

market would work best with

a single currency. Sceptics insisted that he had breached

the Prime Minister's ban on

speculative debate" about a

single currency. "If one of our ministers had said this, he

would be out," one

John Redwood, the former

Cabinet minister, said: "I am

extremely surprised by this ministerial statement. It is way out of line with the Prime

Minister's sensible views about how divisive the single

currency scheme is becoming

Feuding was renewed after

a transcript was published of

remarks made by Mr Nelson

at the World Economic Forum

in Davos, Switzerland at the

beginning of the month. He

told the meeting that it was

"undeniable that a single mar-

He equated a single curren-

cy with "progress" and ac-

cused sceptics of trying to

persuade their fellow country-

men that they would be better

off keeping the pound and being paid in a currency which has been devaluing

year by year". He added:
"How is it that they [sceptics]
can ride under a banner which

proclaims poor but free." Mr Nelson's officials de-

fended his remarks last night,

saying that they had been made under "Chatham House

rules", meaning that they were

not to be reported. They said that their minister had been

speaking off the cuff and had

had to be seen in the centert of

his solid support for the collec-

tive position of the Govern-

ment. But they would not be drawn on whether Mr Nelson

had defied the Cabinet gag-

ket must work best with a

single currency.

ightwinger declared.

monetary union.

Court says autistic woman can be sterilised

of the south

A woman has won her legal fight to have her autistic daughter sterilised. A judge at Edinburgh's Court of Session backed her claim that tating" for her 32-year-old hter, and that she could not be trusted to take contraceptives indefinitely.

campaigners for the mentally disabled who said there was no evidence that the woman was sexually active. It is the first such order in Scotland in a case where sterilisation

was opposed. The 68-year-old mother who cannot be named, told the court that her daughter had been on the Pill since she was 13 and feared she might suffer ill-effects from perma-

Red tape surplus

Britain has created more red tape while implementing Brussels directives than any other member of the EU except Germany, according to a survey by the European Commission. The Government's Deregulation Task Force has identified 1,000 pieces of unnecessary legisla-tion. But a Cabinet Office spokesman said: "It is not as bad as you might think. You actually need a regulation to get rid of a regulation. We are beginning to make an impression on the number of unnecessary regulations."

Bloom's closure

Bloom's, one of the most famous Jewish landmarks in the East End of London, has closed after 75 years. The last week after a big fall in turnover and losing £500,000 in four years. According to the Jewish Chronicle today, Bloom's destiny was made 25 years ago with the departure of most of the remaining Jewish residents from the area. and it had only survived because it was on a road to the suburbs, and near the City. It introduction of a "red route".

BEE LANG.

Service.

(2) E

Panorama wins

The BBC won a record 12 awards at the the Royal Television Society's annual journalism and sports awards last night, including two for its Panorama interview with the Princess of Wales, which was named interview of the year. Martin Bashir, the interviewer, was journalist of the year. Channel 4 dominated the current affairs awards, with The Dying Room, about children being left to die at Chinese orphanages, taking the international current affairs award.

Asylum plea

not put out a text.

Downing Street officials said that Mr Nelson's speech Muhammad al-Mass'ari, the Saudi dissident, launched his appeal against deportation Britain yesterday, claiming that his safety would be threatened if he was sent to Dominica. The 49-year-old professor alleged at the Immigration Appellate Authority hearing that the British Government wanted to expel him to protect its commercial relationship with Saudi Ara-bia, and that he would be a "reinctant pioneer" if he was forced to become the first person to seek asylum in

New ball game

The former Scotland rugby captain Gavin Hastings has vitched to American football, becoming kicker for the Scottish Claymores. Hastings. 34. will fly to America with the squad next monthfor a trial to play in the 1996 World League. The kicker is on the field for only a few minutes of each match. "I know how to kick a ball," he said. The technique is not going to be dramatically dif-ferent." The Claymores hope that his popularity will dou-ble their usual 9,000 crowd.

Major rekindles talks as summit hopes rise

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND RICHARD FORD

JOHN MAJOR began a fresh round of talks with senior politicians last night as he sought to break the deadlock in reaching a political settlement in Northern Ireland.

The initiative came as it was disclosed that the Home Secretary had been advised before the Docklands bombing that the IRA had developed a new mortar device and was moving weapons around. The Prime Minister unex-

pectedly arranged a string of meetings with Unionist and nationalist leaders, raising expectations that he was preparing for an early summit with John Bruton, the Irish Prime

David Trimble, the Ulster jor just 48 hours after the two John Hume, leader of the our Party, joined Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, for talks. Downing Street played down talk of an imminent cians said that the new phase of talks "offered grounds for

optimism". Talks between the

two Prime Ministers are expected to take place next week. The new round of discussions came as Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ire-Secretary, underlined the Government was open to discussions on issues including referendums, elections to an assembly and intensive "proximity talks" to bring the parties together.

Irish sources suggested that Sir Patrick's acceptance of the earlier ministerial suggestions that such a plan was "prema-



Mitchell: meeting today

ture". The new talks began on. the eve of today's meeting between Mr Major and George Mitchell, who chaired the three-man international commission that drew up plans for disarming the Ireland. Senator Mitchell, in London in his role as an

and witnesses, force traders to pay protection money and carried out robberies to raise funds, the annual review of the Prevention of Terrorism Act said. John Rowe, QC. author of the review, urged Mr Howard to retain the power to exclude individuals from England and Wales. Bertie Ahern, the leader of

Ireland's main opposition par-ty. Fianna Fail, last night held his first meeting with Gerry Adams since the collapse of the IRA ceaselire. Mr Ahern described the meeting at Dublin Castle, which lasted more than two hours, as one of his frankest encounters with Sinn

... IRA's sleeper, page 5

Ulster police watchdog split

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE Northern Ireland Police Authority passed motions of no confidence in two of its leading members who want to make the RUC more accept-

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary. expressed disappointment yesterday at Wednesday night's decision. David Cook, the

chairman of the authority, and Chris Ryder, who both want the RUC to examine its practice of flying the Union Flag over police stations, insisted that they would not resign. Sir Patrick told the Commons that it was a "thousand pities" that the authority wasx split.

The dispute goes to the heart of policing in Northern Ireland. Unionists are opposed to reforming the RUC because

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ism. Nationalists say that the RUC is unacceptable in its present form because it is too closely linked with the Unionist community.

The motions, which were tabled by Sheila Davidson, a public relations executive, said that Mr Ryder and Mr Cook discussing its work in public.

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good answers, switch to an account that can.



White teacher wins race case

A TEACHER who claimed that Lambeth Council sejected her job application because she was white has won her case for racial discrimination. Ursula Gregory took the south London council to an industrial tribunal when she failed to get on a shortlist of six for a full-time post, teaching basic mathematics to a class made up of ethnic minorities. She was told she did not know enough about equal opportunities, although she had been doing the job as a temporary tutor at the Ferndale Centre, run by Lambeth's

community education service, without complaint. Mrs Gregory, from Swin-don, said she was delighted by the tribunal's 17-page judg-ment. She will learn on Monday whether she is to receive financial compensation. She

said: "I am very pleased and vindicated.* The Commission for Racial Equality, which had support-

ed Mrs Gregory's claim, wel-come the decision as impor-

tant. "This should act as a reminder to all employers that applications should only be considered on relevant and job-related criteria," it said.

Mrs Gregory had claimed at the tribunal hearing in Croydon in September that she was at least as good as some of those shortlisted and could find no other explanation other than that she was being discriminated against on the ground of race.

She was one of 29 people eight white and the others black or Asian - to apply for the post. After interviews for the job in January 1993, the final shortlist consisted of five black applicants and a Welsh voman. The job went to a

The council told the tribunal that Mrs Gregory was turned down because she had failed to show sufficient understanding of equal opportunities issues. Monica Jones, a ember of the selection panel. said: "Her use of words like immigrant' was emotive. And she didn't explore the issue of inner-city deprivation."

Prime Minister pleads with Thurnham to stay in party

final attempt last night to prevent his Commons majority from slipping to two with a personal appeal to Peter Thurnham to stay in the parliamentary party.

Mr Thurnham MP for Bolton NE, irritated at various aspects of the Government's recent performance, including its response to the Scott report, will announce today whether he is resigning the whip to sit in the Commons as an independent Conservative.

would be treated officially as a minority party. The result, on paper, would be to halve the Government's majority to two. This would drop to one if it loses the Staffordshire South East by-election. Mr Thurnham's main

rievance with the Tories has

standing down. Mr Thurnham had already announced he was standing down from his present seat. where he has a 185 majority over Labour. He has had meetings with

party whips and ministers this week, including William Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the two most strongly criticised in the Scott report, but they have apparently failed to change his mind. It appeared last night that he would again consult his constituency chairman before

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN THE Prime Minister made a

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> been the decision of the local party in the Westmorland & Lonsdale constituency, where he lives, not even to interview him for the seat

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Although that means he will when Michael Jopling, the constituency chairs support the Government on sitting MP, announced he was an announcement.

Scott accuses ministers of distortion

response to the Scott report when he appeared before the 1922 Committee last night. But at least one MP, Quentin Davies (Stamford), expressed reserva-tions, and there could be a handful of Tory rebels in Monday's debate.

The judge's intervention was prompted by the way ministers have consistently quoted him as saying that there was no conspiracy and no cover up, even though the report contains no such statement.

At his press conference last Thursday, however, Sir Richard was asked if it would be a fair summary to say that there had been no conspiracy and no cover up. Initially he replied: "I think that is a fair summary." But he went on to qualify his

answer. Any soundbite answer, any summary one-line answer is bound to be a distortion of what I have taken care to express in the report," he said. The judge is apparently irritated

because ministers have relied on only the first part of his answer. Mr Muttakumaru's letter says Sir Richard's answers "are being selectively used" adding: "Throughout the press conference, Sir Richard invited questioners to read the report if they wanted to know his view on the subjects put to him."

In the Commons, yesterday, Tony Blair seized on Mr Clarke's apparent admission that Mr Waldegrave had misled Parliament. This related but separate row centres on a Treasury press release about

the report's contents which Labour claims wrongly claimed that Mr Waldegrave had been acquitted of misleading Parliament.

Mr Clarke yesterday accepted that the statement was wrong, saying: "William and I are both clear that the word intentionally should have preceded 'misled ... Equally, it is quite clear from the context that this was a drafting error ... The question being addressed was whether Sir Richard Scott said William Waldegrave intentionally misled Parliament. As the press notice rightly says, the answer to this question is plainly 'no'."

Philip Howard, page 16 Letters, page 17

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News black-out by Pakistan as Princess sees young cancer victims on controversial Imran visit

Tears of the royal caller who officially was not there at all

By Alan Hamilton in London and Zahir Hussain in Lahore

VISIBLY moved by the distress of young patients but seemingly oblivious to the political controversy surrounding her presence the Princess of Wales yesterday toured Imran Khan's cancer hospital in Lahore.

Tension between the hospital authorities and the Pakistani government was apparent during the Princess's tour, as part of her private visit to Pakistan at the invitation of the country's former cricket

Twenty plain-clothes sec-urity officers assigned by the local authority to guard the Princess were refused admission to the hospital when she arrived and were asked by Dr. Nousherwan Burki, the clinic's chief executive, to leave the building. Unusually, no official government represen-tative accompanied the Prin-cess, and her visit received no in opposition to Benazir coverage from Pakistan's Bhutto, the Prime Minister, state-run television and radio. Imran and his British wife Officials and commentators Jemima, daughter of the fi-

THE Prince of Wales will

visit a new Hindu temple in

London, the first and largest

He will spend an hour and

a half at the ornate £12

million Swaminarayan Hin-

criticised by the evangelical Church Society.

Hindus have been traveling from throughout the life of the Hindu count
country to visit and pray at ity." a spokesman said.



Moved: the Princess at the hospital

"Queen of Hearts" for his

involved in education pro-

grammes for all

The Princess looked grim as she emerged from the hospital, which treates 8,000 patients a year and is run entirely on voluntary dona-tions. She looked much more Prince's temple visit relaxed when, accompanied by Imran, his wife and his mother-in-law, Annabel welcomed by Hindus Goldsmith, she attended a party to celebrate Eid, the Muslim festival marking the end of Ramadan. In accor-BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT dance with Islamic custom, she covered her head with a last August. It is also deeply scarf when a verse of the

traditional temple outside grammes for young Hindus India, next week. and in social care pro-The visit probably provid-ed an emotional outlet for the Princess, who is passing Buckingham Palace said through a difficult time," one the visit to the temple was woman staff member of the du temple at Neasden, north being organised in response to an invitation. This is an been warmly welcomed by opportunity to visit what I the Hindu community and understand is the most hospital said. Last night the Princess was 90 minutes late opportunity to visit what I understand is the most prominent Hindu temple in Britain and to see something of the religious and cultural life of the Hindu communfor a £200-a-head fund-raising dinner at the hospital. Most of the 500 guests were businessmen and friends of Imran Khan, including Wasim Akram, Pakisan's

Koran was read.

insisted that the Princess's

visit was purely humanitar-ian, and to help raise funds for the hospital. Imran him-self criticised the Pakistani government for failing to support the hospital. The Princess travelled to Pakistan in Sir lames's since at

dress of long shirt and baggy trousers, she displayed barely

concealed grief as she toured wards of the Shankat Khanum clinic, founded by

Imran in memory of his mother, who died of cancer. Tears filled her eyes as she

met Adnan Rovena, a young

cancer victim facing amputa-

tion of both legs in a desperate effort to save his life. What

can we do to save his life?" the Princess asked doctors and

the boy's mother.

in Sir James's aircraft. Wearing traditional local

The Princess with Imran and Jemima Khan, left, and Lady Annabel, right, the authorities claim her visit has a political motive

Designers hope to cash in on latest fashion

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE Princess of Wales, wearing Bond Street's version of the traditional Pakistani national costume, could start a new fashion trend, leading designers said last night. Mass-produced versions of the

Princess's shimmering pink silk shalwar kameez - loose-fitting trousers, long shirt, and dapatta wrapped around her neck - sell for as little as £15 in the East End of London. The Princess's outfit, made by the leading British designer Catherine Walker. cost about a hundred times as much and was more chic than conservative. Pakistani political commentators, who have criticised her decision to visit Imran Khan, a political oppo-

Bhutto, praised her taste in haute couture. She had learnt from the mistake of her last visit to Pakistan in 1991 when she offended some Muslims by walking around Lahore's ancient Badshahi Mosque in a dress that revealed her knees. Jemima Khan, wife of Imran Khan, wore a similar creation to the Princess yesterday, but adhered to strict Muslim tradition by covering her hair.

Zandra Rhodes, a leading British designer of Eastern silk and chiffon costumes, believed there would be a knock-on effect in Britain. Speaking from her home in California, where Princess Diana's taste in fashion was once again dominating the television news, Ms Rhodes said: "Princess

wears. Whenever I go to India or Pakistan I always wear a shalwar kameez. They are cool, practical and please your hosts. I suspect now that she has been photographed wearing one, the Princess, who is something of

a role model, could start a big trend."
Leading fashion sellers in London
agreed. A photo spread of models
wearing shalwar kameez was featured in a recent issue of Vogue. At Yazz International, in Baker Street, central London, similar outfits sell for between £300 and £600.

The Pakistani shop sells the country's leading designers, including Maheen and Tahiun Tahilliani, who designed outfits for Jemima Khan's wedding. Its most expensive designs

who runs the business, said: "The shalwar kameez makes women feel flowing. They are becoming so popular in Britain that women even wear them as wedding suits.

"The colours this year are pastel. pinks and lime green. I thought Princess Diana looked beautiful. She is a wonderful advertisement for our national costume."

For those on a more modest income, however, the Pakistani High Commission in London recommends shops near Upton Park, the home of West Ham Football Club. "They cost as little as £15. Or you could try Wembley or Southall. Plenty there to choose from," the receptionist said.

Murder riddle outlives last member of the cast

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE last survivor of the Dominici clan, at the centre of and mysterious murder cases of the 1950s, has died in

Gustave Dominici, who died at the age of 76, claimed in August 1952 to have sturnbled across the bodies of three British holidaymakers. The discovery led to one of the most tortuous of French murder investigations, which remains unresolved.

The victims were Sir Jack Drummond, a numitional expert and former senior scientific adviser to the British Government, his wife Ann and their daughter Elizabeth. The Drummonds, on holiday from their home in Nottingham, had been camping over-night on land owned by the Dominicis, a family of peasant farmers, at Lurs, near Digneles-Bains in Provence.

Sir Jack, 61, and his wife, 46, had been shot. Their daughter, 10, had been battered to death with a rifle butt. Suspi-cion immediately fell on the Dominicis but of the 17 adults in the family, Gustave, the



Gustave: his evidence sent father to prison

youngest son and then 33, was the only one who would talk. Gustave, who was alleged to have told someone in a neighbouring village that Elizabeth was still breathing when he found her, was sentenced to two months in prison for deprayed indifference in failing to give her assistance. Then, at the end of a long interrogation, Gustave broke down and said that the murderer was his father. Gaston, patriarch of the clan, then

aged 75. Gustave's allegation was later backed by his brothfirmed it, and retracted it again before a trial which became one of the most sensational France had known.

The affair, during which Gaston made a confession, also later retracted, saying that he had killed the Drummonds because Sir Jack had surprised him embracing Lady Drummond, gripped the country. At one point Gaston tried to commit suicide during a re-enactment of the murder

by leaping into a ravine.

Regarded by some as a monster and nicknamed the Wild Boar of La Grande Terre - the name of his farm -Caston was seen by others as a dignified old man who could not possibly have turned triple killer so late in life.

Sir Jack's position as a government adviser led to speculation that foreign agents might have been involved. Another theory was that his connections with the wartime resistance in the area were somehow involved. Gaston Dominici was found guilty at the end of an 11-day



Sir Jack Drummond with his wife and daughter.

trial in 1954, in the course of which members of the family shouted accusations against each other across the court. The old man was sentenced to be guillotined and was held under death sentence for three years, but there was widespread disquiet about the conflicting evidence, gaps in the partiality by the judge. In 1957 Dominici was re-

prieved and given a sentence of life imprisonment instead. In 1960, eight years after the killings, he was pardoned on Bastille Day by President de Gaulle and released. He left prison frail and walking with sticks, but still vowing that he would find the real murderer. The local council protested

against his being allowed to return to the area where his supposed crime had been committed, and his family remained divided, but the old man continued to give interviews protesting his innocence and demanding a retrial. He

died in 1965. A further twist came with the alleged confessions of a German, Wilhelm Bartowski, who was claimed to have told British Special Investigation Branch officers that he and three colleagues had murdered the Drummonds during

Gustave died in hospital in Digne-les-Bains, and was bur-ied yesterday in the village cemetery at Peyruis, where his father also lies.

Road-rage attacker left me sobbing in street

EMMA WILKINS, a Times reporter, right, yesterday be-came another victim of road rage. She describes how a minor traffic accident escalated into a violent assault.

It was 10.15am, I was late for work, and the traffic along the Chelsea Embankment was moving like glue. As the car ahead slowed to a halt, I was forced to brake. The car be-

hind never made it. There was a dull thud. 1 looked in my rear-view mirror and was reassured to see that the driver was a woman. She had distinctive red hair.

There was no damage to either vehicle. But the other driver, probably in her forties, leapt out of her car incoherent with rage, unleashing a volley of four-letter words. I got out to face her, initially too surprised to be scared.

"Look what you have done to my car," she screamed. I looked. Nothing. The collision had not even dislodged the snow from her car's bonnet. She swept the snow off and pointed to it again: "LOOK AT IT!" It was immaculate.

Having suggested calmly that we exchange addresses, I



Emma Wilkins: dreads driving after incident

pointed out that she had gone into my car — it was her fault. She lunged at me, grabbed my hair, and tried to smash my face on to the bonnet of her car. She was screaming at me: ** look at it!"

I broke free, ran to my car and dialled 999 on my mobile telephone and said what was happening. My attacker ran at me again and tried to snatch

the phone away. I ran towards a stationary cab with two passengers in-

side, banged on the window and begged for help. "Sorry, love," the driver said, pulling away. I tried to flag down a motorcyclist. He did not stop. A cyclist ignored my plea for help. I rang the police again, sobbing down the phone.

The assailant came at me again and bit me on the face above my right eyebrow. I could smell alcohol on her

People began to appear on the scene. A man in his fifties had seen everything from his flat and had telephoned the police. The woman sped off in her white estate car. I took down her registration number.

The police arrived within minutes. One officer said that if the skin on my face had been broken I would have needed an HIV test. I was shaking and went into deep shock. dread driving again.

The AA said only a few cases of road rage went as far as A recent survey showed that 90 per cent of drivers had experienced degrees of road rage, from obscene gestures to

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Pollution control chief predicts decade of damage after slick spreads along 240 miles of coastline

Tanker inquiry to focus on salvage operation

By Nick Nuttall, environment corresponden

into the Sea Empress accident was ordered by the Government yesterday as its senior marine pollution expert said oil pollution could damage the

Welsh coast for a decade. Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, told the Commons that the inquiry by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch would look into tanker as well as the reasons for the accident, which led to most of the cargo of 147,000 tonnes leaking into inlets and coastal waters. The inquiry was criticised as "not an adequate response" by Clare Short, Shadow Transport Secretary, who urged the Government to recall Lord Donaldson of Lymington, who conducted

disaster off Shetland. Last night the slick, a mixture of sheen and patches of heavy oil, was estimated to be 60 miles long, stretching from Worms Head off the Gower area, to Ramsey Island, north of Milford Haven and a Royal

an inquiry after the 1993 Braer

that it covered 240 miles of meandering coastline.

David Bedborough, chief Transport's marine pollution control unit, said: "In terms of ecological recovery, it will now depend on the energy of the coastal system. Very exposed coastlines can expect recovery in two years." Quieter, calmer areas such as eel grass sites where sea bass spawned, salt marshes and mudilats where shellfish and other marine organisms lived, could take a lecade to recover.

Michael Hislop, general manager of Millord Haven Port Authority, said that with hindsight it might have been better to leave the Sea Empress where she had initially settled rather than trying to refloat her. The initial refloating at the end of last week putting the tanker into a deep pool on the sea bed. With heavy water seeping into her



an independent inquiry

to lighten her load could be pumped on board. But Stephen Dennison of the Cory Salvage Company.

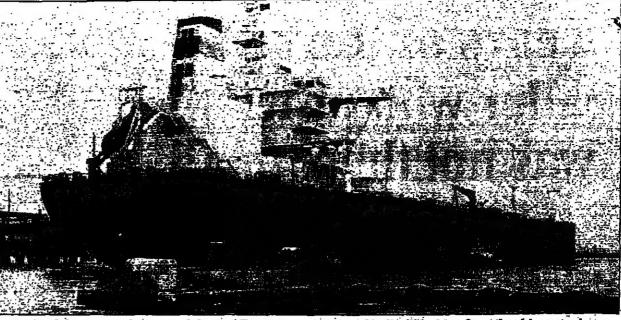
one of the firms involved in the salvage, rejected the sugges-tion. The engine room could have flooded and the Sea Empress would have been lost if it had stayed on the rocks during the storms, he said. Ministers will be under

Haven. Chris Harris, chief executive of the Coastguard agency, said the Donaldson report had concluded that southwest Wales was not a priority "in terms of the sensitivity of coastline, amount of traffic and weather. Minis-ters decided to deploy two specialist tugs, choosing the Dover Straits and northwest The admission by Mr Har-

ris outraged environmentalists. A spokeswoman for the World Wide Fund for Nature said Milford Haven was one of Britain's busiest ports. There are about 7,400 vessel movements a year, including 3,000 tanker movements.

The area is dotted with over a dozen sites of special scientific interest, the region is Britain's only coastal national park and the haven area is a proposed Special Area of Conservation under the new European Union habitats and

Last night the Sea Empress remained lashed to the disused Esso jetty where she was berthed on Tuesday night, still



A black boom stretches around the Sea Empress to try to contain oil still leaking from the ship yesterday

Desperate fishermen reduced to tears

tional trade in shellfish which has been one of the main sources of employment and income in southwest Wales.

Each week, a fleet of six or seven articulated vivier trucks called to collect the local catch of live lobsters, crabs, craw-

to Spain. France and Italy. By yesterday faxes had been received from all those foreign markets saying they did not want any supplies from Mil-ford Haven while the emerfishermen, and their catch of the local crawfish fetched gency continued.

The fishermen have called a voluntary halt to operations, and the firms that took their catch abroad have joined

Last year's sales of lobsters ere worth £550,000 to local

almost as much. the area had also built up a trade in spider, velvet swimmer and green crabs, appreciated on the Continent though

In addition to edible crabs.

Association, said yesterday The fishermen here live from had them on the telephone crying. They do not know how they are going to pay their bills. It is a catastrophe in a

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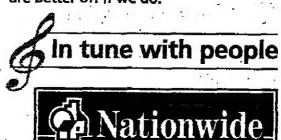
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Newbury bypass changes reduce impact on wildlife

By Michael Hornsey, countryside correspondent

CHANGES are to be made to he design of the Newbury bypass in Berkshire to lessen

building arm of the Depart-ment of Transport, insisted to do with the weeks of protest by environmental pressure groups opposed to the new road. In a statement last night, the agency said, the design modification had been "under consideration for some time lish Nature (the Government's

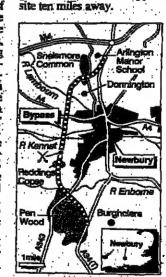
conservation adviser).' The change will widen the pans of four bridges carrying the bypass over rivers in the Kennet and Lambourn valleys, which are classified as sites of special scientific interest. David Henshilwood, of English Nature, said: The bridge supports will now be set back from the rivers. leaving wider corridors along the banks through which wild-life can move. This will definitely be an improvement on supports would have been placed right at the rivers'

The changes fall short of the original recommendation by English Nature and the National Rivers Authority that the bypass should be carried through the valleys on a viaduct to allow wildlife to pass underneath, but this was

paigns director of Friends of

sign changes as unconvincing. "Far from reassuring the public that environmental concerns are being addressed, the Government has merely highighted the inadequate and approval of the road in the first place," he said.

Meanwhile security guards hired by the Highways Agency to keep protesters away from the bypass could themselves be facing eviction. temporarily housed in decaying huts at a former military removed. They biame the men for provoking brawis in local pubs and are angry about the his noise and pollution caused by W the buses which ferry the guards to and from the bypass



Farmer halts riders in his own backyard

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SHEEP farmer who represented himself in the High Court was celebrating last night after a victory over the: Department of the Environment that will prevent riders taking their horses "right through his courtyard".

Mr Justice Judge told Paul Williamson: "This must be great for you. You are a itigant in person taking on the Secretary of State and you have been told that you are right. Thank you for coming to court today and, if I may

outside court that he had been through "years of hell" after a track across his land at Musbury, near Axminster, Devon, had been declared a

He had come to court expecting a battle with govemment lawyers. However, in a surprise move, the department backed down, conceded that the classification should be rescinded and agreed to pay all his costs.

Mr Williamson's troubles began in 1987 when the British Horse Society applied to Devon County Council to open the track to equestrians, claiming its use as a bridleway since time imme-

cil refused, but the society then went on to win an appeal held before a planning inspector in March 1991, after a

public inquiry.

The council was ordered to modify the area's definitive map to show the track as a bridleway, which it did in

November 1991. The court was told yesterday that John Gummer, the present Environment Secretary, conceded that the department had "misunderstood" a letter from Mr Williamson as meaning that the farmer did not wish to be heard by the

The judge said that the decision to classify the track as a bridleway would be overturned, with Mr Gummer's consent.



legs shaved by laser could sta

Terrorist 'triggered bus bomb by standing up' IRA sleeper fooled neighbours

and Saturday nights he would hire a mini-cab to take him on

a £5 journey from Lewisham

to The Swan pub in Stockwell

to enjoy Irish evenings. Each

He was for several weeks a

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

THE bomb which killed IRA terrorist Ed O'Brien exploded close to his right leg, the inquest into his death was told

O'Brien died from injuries to his chest and lower limbs when the bomb he was trans-porting exploded as he trav-elled on a 171 bus in the Aldwych, central London, on Sunday night, Dr Iain West, a Home Office pathologist, told Westminster Coronor's Court. Police believe the bomb was triggered as O'Brien stood up to get off the bus to plant it.

The inquest was told that O'Brien. 21, from Gorey, Co Wexford, had been living since less bloomers at an address and the stood of the bloomers at the address of the stood of the bloomers at the address of the bloomers at the bl

last November at an address Lewisham southeast London. He had been visually identified at Westminster Pub-lic Mortuary on February-21 by Darren Cullen, a security officer and friend since childhood. In written evidence, he said O'Brien had lived at 117

George Lane, Lewisham.

Detective Superintendent

Villiam Emerson, from the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said



identify O'Brien through fin-gerprint records. Asked by Dr Paul Knapman, the coroner, if O'Brien had used aliases, Mr. Emerton said it was possible, "but I believe him to be

Edward Miles O'Brien". Dr Knapman adjourned the inquest until March 6.
From his bedsit O'Brien

pipe layer for RailTrack.
He had a telephone line played out the role of an IRA "sleeper", taking care to appear neither too secretive installed in the first-floor flat, one of four in a converted. detached house, and he not bother to make the number ex-

have paid his £75 a-week rent in cash to the landlord and landlady, believed to be Anthony and Marie Carley, who ran The George pub down the road until Mr Carley's ill health forced him to give it up. When detectives broke into

O'Brien's flat they found a large quantity of explosives.
Neighbours were stunned to find they had been living within yards of what they were yesterday calling an IRA

The corner house, with its huge garden and garage, is shabby but neatly kept. Yesterday a pane of glass in the front door was boarded in indicating that the transfer that the transfer that the transfer that the state of the st up, indicating that the police had forced an entry. O'Brien's next-door neigh-

bour, Marcus Bowery, 22, is a barman at the Haifway to Heaven pub in Charing Cross, morning he would catch a rain to work as a labourer. central London. He was working there on the night O'Bri-en's bomb exploded and heard the bang. I'm just glad they didn't go off in the house," he said. "If he made that mistake on the hear its that mistake on the bus, it's

The manager of the Easy

times and some of the lads got a few fares from him. I'm glad that he took the bus that

night and not one of our cabs." Bar staff at The Swan, a big south London venue for live bands, many of them Irish, bands, many of them Irish, said: "You get literally hundreds of Irishmen in here and half of them are probably called O'Brien. Ir's a good place to mingle and stay anonymous if you wanted to."

Ramesh Patel, 44, who runs the shop where O'Brien often stopped on his way to work for civarettes. said: "He used to

come in here regularly, and he always asked for the same thing: 20 Benson & Hedges. He locked too young to smoke — about 15 or 16 — and one of the 5-st time he are in 1 the first times he came in I

"He would not say a word except for asking for his cigarettes. I last saw him about a week to ten days ago. It's amazing what was going on behind the closed doors of his flat. I can't believe it."

asked him how old he was.

Yesterday, on George Lane,



A police guard remains outside O'Brien's first-floor flat in George Lane, Lewisham

whur, by Legs shaved by anges red laser could stay ract on wi

WOMEN may never need to shave their legs again as British scientists come close to solving the problem of un-wanted hair.

A breakthrough in laser technology could revolution ise the cosmetics industry, making creams, electrolysis and women's razors redundant The Ruby Laser, developed in Wales, has produced extremely successful results during a trial by plastic surns. It could be available for clinical and cosmelic use

The idea came by chalice to In theory, the foliate should Professor Mare Clement of be destroyed by frying the Swansea Institute of granules. The surriounding Higher Education, who was skin is unharmed experimenting with lasers ten on dark hairs because they years ago when he accident The idea came by chalice to Professor Mare Clement of beam of light. "I noticed later that the area hit by the laser was bald and the hair has

Three years ago he men-tioned his accident to David Gault, a plastic surgeon from the Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, northwest London Professor Clement is also director of research and

useful because they are also the most visible and unsightly. More experiments will be

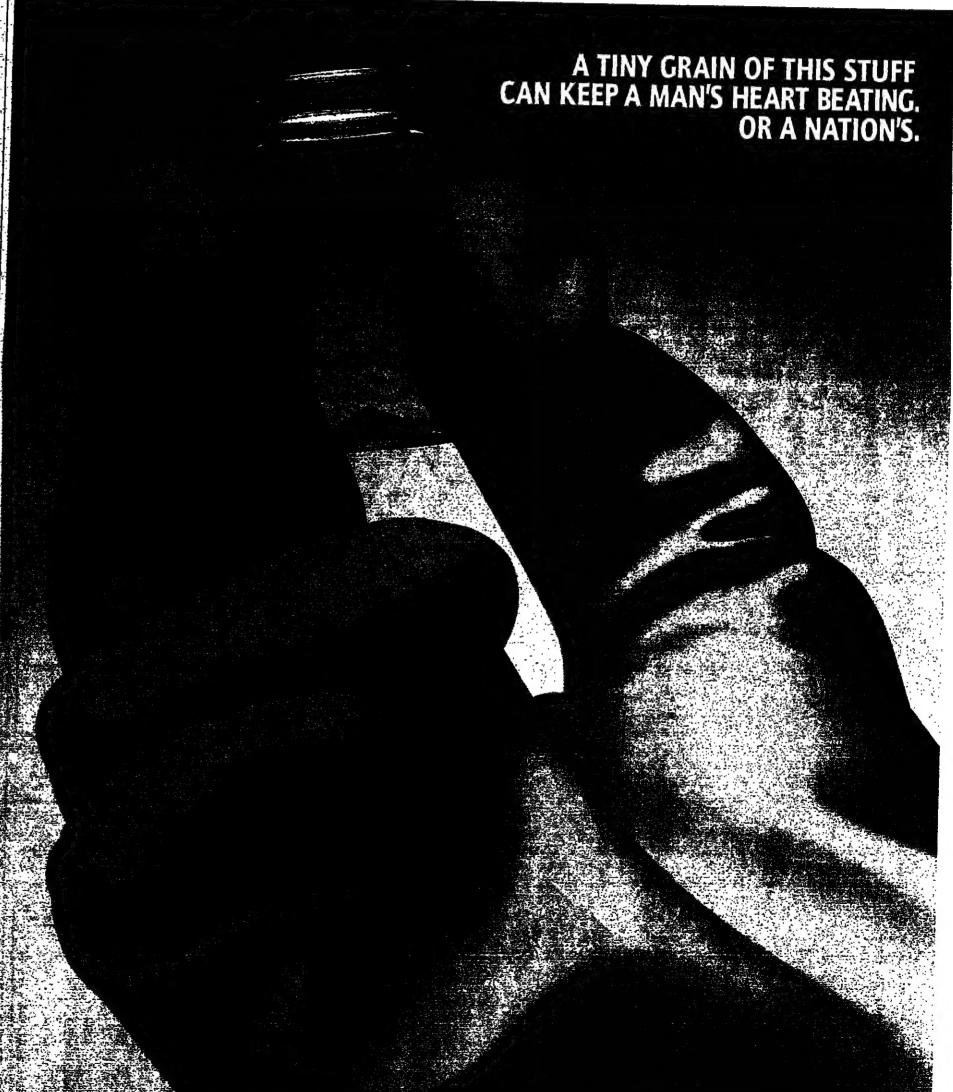
smooth for life

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

development at the laboratories of \$1.5 (Wales) in Lianelli, Dyfed, which makes lasers to treat birthmarks. They created a prototype laser specifically to remove unwanted hairs. Trials began set months ago. So far a third of the patients take haif no hair grow back after four months. Another third have were less than hair.

third have seen less than half their hair regrow. A tenth kept all their hair

Communed to existing depi-





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Plutonium is a mightily feared subs Can all the legends about it be true?

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Department defends segregated RE

Shephard refuses to order inspection of Muslim lessons

By David Charter, education correspondent

GILLIAN SHEPHARD defended separate religious educhildren yesterday and rejected calls to send school inspectors to check the standard and content of segregated religious teaching at a

Birmingham primary school. A spokeswoman for Mrs Shephard said she was confi-dent that Birchfield Primary School in Aston was meeting its legal requirement to give its 700 pupils religious education which was in the main

The situation is being stud-ied closely in Batley, West Yorkshire, where 1,500 Muslim children have missed religious education lessons for two months after being with-drawn by parents. Kirklees Borough Council said that talks with parents had been delayed during Ramadan but

would take place soon. Pupils at Birchfield are offered a choice of RE with their form teacher or with a Muslim teacher. Seventy per cent of the 700 children, almost all of them Muslims, opt for the

A spokesman for the Department for Education said: "As we understand it both classes are within the agreed syllabus." Birmingham City Council said the head teacher had assured them this was the case. However. Muhammad Mukadam, a school governor, said yesterday: "Why on earth would we separate children and teach them the same thing? That makes no sense at all. When we teach Muslim children we teach from the Koran. We have separated the children because we feel it is right to teach Muslim children Islam and wrong to impose

that on other children." Mrs Shephard rejected a call from Lady Olga Maitland, a member of the Commons education committee, to send school inspectors to check the lessons. Lady Olga said she feared activists" were using religion

to further political purposes and create divisions in society "I have nothing against child-ren from Islamic families being educated in their own faith. But what we seem to have here is Islamic education masquerading as balanced RE. If there is a dispute about what exactly is being taught, experienced education inspectors should be sent to sit in on these lessons to find out exactly what is going on."

The syllabus for religious education is agreed at a local level and the 1988 Education Reform Act states it "must reflect the fact that religious



Critics fear separate religious classes are being used for political education and will divide society

traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions." The Act says parents can withdraw children from religious worship or education if they do not want the child to receive religious education in accordance with

the school's basic curriculum". Campaigners against multi-feith RE lessons claimed the

THE MAN FROM ESCOM EXPLAINS...

Education and Employment Secretary was refusing to acknowledge this was a legal loophole which could lead to widespread rejection of the current syllabus by Muslim parents. Fred Naylor, secretary of the Parental Alliance Choice in Education, said Birchfield was simply making alternative provision for these children. He said: The real issue is that the Department

for Education has been misrepresenting the law. What is happening at Birchfield is a major breakthrough and Mrs Sheohard is still not recognising it. This destroys the idea of multi-faith RE as the only politically correct form of RE in British schools."

Malik Fazal Hussain, a member of the Birmingham Standing Advisory Conter-ence on RE, which devised the

syllabus for city schools, said the classes taken by the Mus-lim teacher were "mostly Islam, though Christianity is covered". Mr Hussain, secretary of the Muslim Liaison Committee, said: The majority of children at the school are

Muslim, therefore the overall

religious education should be

Daniel to

be ENO's

music chief

BY DALYA ALBERGE

PAUL DANIEL has been ap-

pointed music director of English National Opera, replacing Sian Edwards, who left amid

also being acclaimed as a guest conductor. He moves to

the ENO next year. Dennis

Marks, ENO's general direc-

tor, said he was looking forward to the collaboration.

controversy last autumn. Daniel, 37, has won great respect in his six years as mus ic director at Opera North

Leading article, page 17



debt-ridden Brent Walker by Hertsmere Borough Council, which is paying an undisclosed sum for the right to lease the 15.5 acre site and its three studio buildings to film makers. The deal allows Brent Walker to avoid a High Court case due to start on March 4. It was being sued for allegedly falling to honour the original planning agreement to rebuild the studios for 25 years of tele-

Rail inquiry

A train from Reading, Berk-shire, hit buffers at London's Paddington station yesterday, just a week after a train bit buffers at Bourne End. Buckinghamshire. Nebody was hurt. Both turbo diesels were run by Thames Trains. An inquiry is under way.

Tube arrests

A crackdown on pickpockets on the London Underground brought 146 arrests in three months. British Transport Police said, compared with 38 arrests over the corres-ponding period last year. Detection rates improved from 2 per cent to 9 per cent. Seaman killed

A scaman was blown overboard and died in the Humber near Brough when an German-owned coaster, Paloma I. blew off her hatch es. Another man suffered

serious burns. The vessel carried 1,700 tonnes of coke. Death verdict

Frank Cummins, 64, who died during emergency sur-gery after being trapped for 50 minutes in a lift at Withhigton Hospital on his way to theatre after a heart attack, died from natural ner recorded.

No headway

Nicholas Gcaleka, the tribal chief, was disappointed yesterday after a mummified head in a Highland museum at Dingwall proved not to be his great-great-uncle. The visual had straight red hair, ears and no bullet hole.

Spitfires gather

More than 25 Spittire fighters, the largest number seen in public since 1945, will be at the Imperial War Museum. Duxford, Cambridgeshire, on May 6 for the Spitfire Diamond Jubilee Air Show.

A report "Drugs are luring London outlaws to the Wild West" (December 9) referred an aerodrome on the A128" which had "been used by drug couriers". We wish to make if clear that this did not and was never meant to, refer to Mr Terence Holding whose home in Essex incorp-





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Olympic ambiti

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THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23 1996 Driving for hours

delays men on the road to fatherhood

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

COMMUTING by car can cut. ceases. Dr Mieusset was your chances of becoming a father. Couples take four to six months longer to achieve a pregnancy if the man spends more than three hours a day in his car, according to a study by French researchers.

The reason was probably lower sperm counts caused by the increased temperature of the testicles from sitting so-long in a fixed position, said Dr Roger Micusset of a masruline sterility centre at the University Hospital in Toulouse. Above a certain temperature, sperm production

speaking at a London press conference at which Dr Stewart Irvine, of the Medical Research Conneil's reproductive biology unit at Edin-burgh, reported declining sperm counts in Scots, the first time such declines have been identified in Britain.

A team led by Dr Irvine reports in the British Medical Journal that they studied 577. semen donors. The men split into four roughly equal groups, born either before 1959, from 1960-64, 1965-69 or

the lower the sperm count. The decime appears to be about 2 per cent a year, falling from 98 million sperm per milliture in the oldest group to 78 million in the younge

Dr. Irvine says that these levels are unlikely to affect fertility yet, but the trend is worrying. "If sustained it would mean that men born born the trend to be the sustained to be the about the middle of next century would have sperm levels low enough to be of great concern."

The causes of the decline remain a mystery, especially as Dr Mieusset's group in Toulouse has found no similar decline there. But studies in Paris and in Denmark have shown sperm counts falling.

shown sperm counts falling. In an editorial in the BMJ, Professor David de Kretser of Monash University in Melbourne suggests that chemicals in the environment may be the culprit. Traces of chemicals that minute the effect of the oestrogen hormones may influence the foeths in the womb, producing long-term effects that limit the later ability to produce sperm.

A huge range of such chemicals could be responsible. Dr Irvine says. Pesticides, plasti-cisers, industrial chemicals, the Pill and soya-based foods, which contain plant oestrogens, are all possibilities.

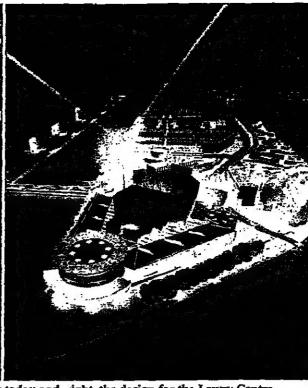
Other factors, such as car driving or smoking, may also play a role. In a third BMJ paper, Professor Marilyn Vine of the University of North Carolina points out that sperm counts of smokers are 16-25 per cent lower than those of non-smokers. The decline in sperm counts over the past 50 years is consistent with trends in smoking, she argues.

Several studies have been launched to try to confirm that the effect is real, and to find the cause. The French discovery about car driving came from one such study, drawing data from Britain, France. Italy, Spain and Denmark.
The data came from more

than 4,000 couples in which the wife had become pregnant. Achieving pregnancy had tak-en longer when the husband spent long hours in the car, researchers provided the likeliest explanation. -"Men whose scrotal tem-

perature is in the low normal range, say about 33C to 34C. don't have a problem." Dr Mieusset explained. They can experience a rise of a degree or so without stopping sperm production. But those whose temperatures are already high, up to 36C, will stop sperm production altogether. The same effect explained why bakers tended to have lower





The waterfront site of the development as it looks today and, right, the design for the Lowry Centre



Lowry: jobs boost for his home city

£64m for lottery landmark By ALEXANDRA FREAN Centre on the Salford Ouays

Lowry's towering talent wins

LOTTERY grant of yesterday to celebrate L.S. Lowry with an giant arts centre in his home city of Salford, as a landmark for the millennium.

The announces cided with the twentieth anniversary of the artist's death. Bill Hinds, leader of the city council, said that the news was the "greatest in Salford's living memory'. The Lowry

straints and a lack of space. waterfront will contain a central art gallery, a chilinitiative between the Arts dren's gallery, a virtual reali-Council, the Millengium Commission and the Herity centre, a 1,650-seat theatre tage Lottery Fund.
The commission also anand a 400-scat auditorium. It will be part of a larger hotel, nounced £12.3 million for restaurant and shopping complex and will cost a total Mile End Park, East

London, £5.6 million for an

environment project in Peterborough, £243,600 for St

Martha's church in Brox-

lage hall, Surrey.

Salford Art Gallery has been unable to display more than half its collection of 300 towe, Nottinghamshire, and £150,000 for Grayswood vil-Lowrys due to financial con-

of £96.4 million. Mr Hinds

forecasts it will create 6,500

artwork offends Cornwall By Dalya Alberge

New York

ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A VIDEO of a nude woman urinating into a fountain, on show at the publicly funded Newlyn Art Gallery in Penzance, has prompted an outery

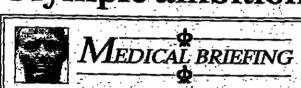
from the local community. The video, part of an exhibi-tion by seven New York artists, has been branded pornographic. Local anger has been fuelled by news that the exhibition received £7.500 from the Arts Council.

Robert Dorrien-Smith, owner of Tresco Island, Isles of Scilly, and a local patron of the arts, is so disgusted he has withdrawn sponsorship he had set aside for a forthcoming exhibition. Taxpayers money is being poured into flying seven people from New York for a gallery that was set up under a charitable trust to promote the work of west Cornwall artists," he said. "In recent times, the rather loony art establishment has got its grip on it. I doubt whether they are artists."

Lilla Locurto and William Outcault, who made the video. see it as a satire on Mannikin Pis, the sculpture of a little boy

in Brussels. Emily Ash, director of the gallery, said: "In Brussels. they celebrate by dressing up that statue once a year. In the nearby square is a similar girl pecing, which is always ig-nored. This is a piece about gender. It's an important piece of work. It was well acclaimed

Castration could scupper sailor's Olympic ambition



TESTOSTERONE, the hormore which is produced in the male from the testes, has a profound influence on the development and maintenance of both the physical and mental characteristics of the male. It increases muscle bulk, reduces fat and enhances the competitive spirit as well as maintaining a man's libido. Not surprisingly, testosterone surprisingly, testosterone surprising are among the many substances which are banned in

The ban is endangering the ambition of Kevin Hall, one of America's outstanding younger Laser dingly helms man, who was hoping to represent the United States in

the summer Olympics this year in Atlanta.

Five years ago, while an undergraduate. Mr Hall developed cancer in one of his testicals and, 18 months later, it was found in the other testical. Cancer of the testes becomes bilateral in 3 per cent of cases. After four years and three major operations, and presumably chemotherapy, he is in excellent trim but, as: he has now been castrated. needs to take testosterone injections to preserve his bones, his strength and his

sex life. Mr Hall has never made any secret of his surgical condition with the sailing authorities and has asked both the United States and the International Olympic Com-

.

mittees to allow him to take as much testosterone as would be needed to give him blood levels of the hormone corres-ponding to the lowest levels found in men of his age

Despite enthusiastic support from such varied institutions as the University of California Medical School, the American Civil Liberties Union, it seems that Mr Hall's hopes of being in the sailing team will be frostrated by the rules. Cancer of the testes is the

most common cancer to affect men under the age of 40 and its incidence is rising. Fortunately, treatment is one of the soccess stories of post-war medicine. Professor Fim Oliver of St Bartholomew's and the Royal London Hospital said that the latest figures from his unit had showed a 97 per cent three year survival rate for several years, more attending the best units have been able to expect a perma-

Professor Oliver, however, has treated several patients. with advanced disease, with chemotherapy alone. Not only have they survived but they have preserved their testes, and their child-siring capability. His results are due for publication soon.

> DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD fertility, he said.

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By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Lord Chancellor failed to calm peers' fears over divorce law reform yesterday, despite passing an amendment to his Family Law Bill stating that marriage should be

senior Labour peer. Lord Sunddard of Swindon, made it clear that Lord Mackay of if he wants to prevent a series of rebellions. Lord Stoddard warned peers that they should wait and see whether Lord Mackay "really meant" to support the institution of marriage. He said: "We have some extremely good amendments which would improve this Bill. I hope that as we go along he will not forget his

Baroness Young was also adamant that she will not back down in her fight to slow the rate of divorce, which she believes places an unacceptable strain on children. The former Tory leader of the Lords is furious that Lord Mackay still wants to intro-duce no-fault divorce after one

Yesterday, as the Bill began its report stage, she demonstrated that she is still willing on the Government with a by all sides of the House,

The most likely amendment to defeat the Government is one that would allow childless couples to divorce after a year but require those with child-ren to wait for 18 months. It has been signed by a formidable trio: the Duke of Norfolk. England's most eminent Roman Catholic peer, the Bishop of Chester and Lord

"This is a Bill to manage the decline of marriage in a civilised way. I'm interested in buttressing marriage. We now know that the worst thing for children is divorce, not quar-

relling parents."

Lord Mackay put up a staunch defence of his Bill. "A year is about the right period," he said. "It gives a chance for people to think very seriously. A year is quite a long period and particularly it's a long period in the childhood of a child. It is a period necessarily of uncertainty and I think we must be very careful about lengthening i

The Lord Chancellor has tried to meet Lady Young's concerns by tabling a new amendment giving spouses being divorced against their will the right to ask for the petition to be blocked on the ground that it would cause them or their children hardship. He told the Lords: "The

tended to include consideration by the court of hardship to children. That doesn't mean the children would have to give evidence." He also emphasised that the Bill would help to save marriages that could be saved.

hardship bar should be ex-

Several peers called for an amendment stating that the interests of the child were paramount. Lord Simon of Glaisdale, a former law lord for parents of children under 16. said he did not believe that a marriage could be loveless if a child was involved. It was an anomoly not to mention child-

He was backed by Baroness Elles, a Tory peer who has added her own amendments to protect children. Lord Northbourne, a cross-bencher, said: "I think in the end the interests of children must be paramount. Parents must take responsibility if children are to grow up happy and useful."

But Earl Russell, a Liberal Democrat, said that the amendment would be ludicrous and impossible to carry out because children always







wanted their parents to stay together and be happy, and that was not always possible. saying we should always have a wise and benevolent Gov-

ernment," he said. Lord Mackey said he want-

ed to do everything to protect children but the amendment was flawed. The law could not stop parents divorcing, even if their children were violently

opposed to it.

Lord Mackay made another concession yesterday,

announcing that the Govern-ment would consider splitting pensions on divorce. It will publish a Green Paper, a decision made in response to calls from the Labour peer Baroness Hollis of Heigham,

welcome a t Buchanan? fusioner would Pat Buando in Britain? winner Would Britain Pat Buchanan?

ow would Pat Bu-chanan do in Britain? The winner of the Republican primary in New Hampshire may be a huckster - long on easy sounding panaceas and short on coherent policies - and as closely tied to Washington as any other candidate, but he has struck a chord with many American voters. Buchanan's 27 per cent vote on Tuesday in multi-candidate race, albeit less than he won in a straight fight with George Bush four years ago, follows earlier sucesses and demonstrates the appeal of his anti-immigrant, anti-imports, anti-big business and anti-abortion themes.

His mixture of economic nationalism and religious moralism appeals to broadly the same groups of the ag-grieved and the downwardly mobile that gave Ross Perot a strong third place in the state in 1992. According to a Voter News Service exit poll, Mr Buchanan received well over half his votes from people with incomes below \$50,000 (£32,000) a year. His support was also heavily drawn from those without college degrees. and he did much better than his rivals among men and those aged under 44. Even in such a widely spread field. Mr Buchanan won over half the voters who described themselves as very conservative, members of the religious Right, and opposed to abortion. It is hard to draw exact parallels with Britain, in part because "social" themes, such as abortion, are not part of the party debate here. Even the arguments over divorce are mainly within the Tory party than between it and Labour, and Tony Blair has em-phasised the need to strengthen the family. But the economic worries of Buchapan supporters are matched here. Socioconsult, a research consultancy arm of MORL, has undertaken a lifestyle analysis of the electorate that identifies two groups, each about 11 per cent of the total. One, described as "slow but sure", consists more of older

ON POLENCES

more of younger, working-class men who like pubs, competitive games and reading The Sun and the Daily Mirror. That sounds more like Buchanan material, though many do not vote. No British politician has

tapped into these disconterns. The conventions of Westminster work against an anniestabishment populist. Enoch Powell was perhaps the last to disaffected without firm party. ties when he raised immigration, and to a lesser extent. Europe between 1968 and 1974. But his personality and instincts were the opposite of a Buchanan. More recently, John Redwood may have caused a stir at Westminster over his leadership challenge, but, again, he is temperamentally not a populist. Paddy Ashdown has campaigned on anti-Westminster themes, but tish Nationalists have played similar tunes as part of their artacks on London and, at times, they have challenged Labour in its working-class strongholds around Glasgow.

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ir James Goldsmith has exploited some of the same nationalist themes as Mr Buchanan. His Referendum Party has a similar antiestablishment appeal to those who believe they have been ignored by the mainstream parties on the fundamental question of Britain's relations with Europe. But that touches economic fears, and Sir James has not really developed his protectionist case in Britain as he has in France. And he is hardly a credible crusader on behalf of the ordinary worker against multinationals.

At present, Labour is torn between attacking the salaries of corporate "fat cats" and trying to appear as respectable as possible to big business. In general, the latter predominates. There may be untapped potential for a populist antiestablishment campaigner in Britain, but he or she would probably have to come from within the existing parties.

PETER RIDDELL

Mawhinney bolsters Tories' spin team

and middle-class women who

value religion and a return to

not respond to crude populism. The other, dubbed "risk

and violence seeking", consists

mionai values: They migh

By NICHOLAS WOOD CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FIVE more Tory spin-doctors will be appointed today. doubling the strength of the party's media team in the runup to the general election.

The announcement by Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, is another milestone in the party's preparations for the election, widely expected in the spring of next year. The Tory high command Labour's slick and powerful

propaganda machine.

Dr Mawhinney will tell businessmen in Derby that the five new recruits will be based at the party's regional offices and will pump out the Tory message to local newspa-pers and broadcasters. In a break with the past designed to avoid the risk of cross wires, the newcomers will be under the direct control of Charles Lewington, the Tories' communications chief, at Cen-

tral Office in London. The latest appointments will mean that in the space of eight months Dr Mawhinney will have almost overhauled his media operation. Four of the newcomers are journalists. The 10-strong Tory team, however, still lags behind the

opposition. Labour has 22 press officers - three based in Tony Blair's office, ten in the regional offices and eight in the £2 million high-tech media centre at Millbank, near the Commons. Dr Mawhinney will say today that he plans further media appointments later in the year.

Ministers criticised over empty housing

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MPs pressed ministers yesterday for action to make up to 70,000 empty houses available to the homeless.

A cross-party Commons committee said that the Government was falling to encourage owners to let vacant housing to those who needed it. In some areas, one in eight: houses is lying empty.

The proportion of empty housing in the private sector is at least twice that of the local authority sector, which has less than 2 per cent of its stock unused. Housing experts have suggested offering higher mortgage interest tax relief to people willing to let

vacant property.

The Government aims to provide up to 60,000 new affordable homes for those who cannot afford to buy or rent on the open market, but many experts suggest that a further 30,000 homes are needed. In a report, MPs on the Environment Select Committee also criticised ministers for allowing one in ten government-owned houses, in-cluding many owned by the Ministry of Defence to remain empty. --

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: que to Northern Imitand ministers en Prima Minister; statement or th

Student work scheme

STUDENTS would be required to do work experience as part of their higher education under plans being prepared by Labour (David Charter writes).

Writing in The Times today, David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, says that all university courses could include vocational training to improve students' employability. "We should consider intro-

perhaps an extra module re-lated to the development of innovation, enterprise and the world of work."

David Blunkett page 33

ducing a vocational element for all third-level students. He also strongly suggests that students would have so contribute more towards the cost of their higher education under Labour.





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Buchana. Ingrained discrimination frustrates police reform

HOME CORRESPONDENT

Welcomea

BULLYING and racist and sexist jokes remain part of police life across England and Wales, according to a report published yesterday.

Resistance to policies pro moting equal opportunities for women and members of the ethnic minorities has grown in a service with a strongly hierarchical and predominantly white male ethos.

The report, by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, says that people in the police service are divided about the benefits of an equal opportunities policy. It warns senior officers that token gestures could be masking continuing subtle discrimination.

Welfare officers told the authors, who looked at 13 forces, including Greater Manchester, Surrey and the West Midlands, of increasing reports of "oppressive bullying". The report found evi-

insurance company by sexual harassment. Their experience shows how difficult it is for women to succeed in traditionally male jobs, according to researchers who interviewed 45 managers. Their report, published in the British Sociological Association's journal Work, Employment and Society. argues that the deep sented nature of sexual harassment in sales trapped women managers in a victors circle. If they complained, they were "unsuitable" for men's jobs.

banter, perhaps more covert and subtle than before, but no less destructive. There were many stories of harassment or ian staff."

Associations representing staff acrused managers of failing to challenge poor behav-iour. They claimed that while wholesale discrimination had ceased, cases of harassment were often not reported for fear of the consequences.

The report - Developing Diversity in the Police Service, published by the Home Office said that the idea of a diverse workforce was proving slow to take root. Enequal opportunity policies.

The report says that a radical change in approach is needed. The view has to be eradicated that equal opportuni-ties is a 'bolt-on' soft option, necessary to satisfy the law but related more to politically correct ideas about race and gerider than to 'real police

The report, by Peter Hermitge, assistant inspector of constabulary, says that all sectors of the community would be reassured by an antisexist, anti-racist and anti-homophobic force.
Female officers and those

the level of constable and under-represented in the higher ranks. The percentage of women and members of the ethnic minorities in ranks up to that of chief inspector has slightly increased, but their representation in the top ranks is almost unchanged since 1990.

Women constituted 13.7 per cent of all officers in forces excluding the Metropolitan Police in 1994: only 3 per cent at the ranks of assistant chief constable and above, 2.6 per 2.9 per cent at chief inspector; 3.8 per cent at inspector; and 6.8 per cent at sergeant. Of constables, women constituted 16.4 per cent.

Members of ethnic minor ities constituted 1.4 per cent of all police officers in 1994: I.6 per cent of constables, 0.6 per cent of sergeants; 0.4 per cent of inspectors; and 0.1 per cent of chief inspectors. There were no members of ethnic minorities at the level of assistant chief constable and above.



Thought for paws: Luke the Labrador with Warrant Officer Jeffrey Pedrick

Treading softly, the dog of war

A HUMBLE foot soldier in the war on terrorism demonstrated the latest equipment yesterday. Luke the sniffer dog is trying out protective boots to protect paws for dogs who go where bumans fear to

Army dogs are at risk from shards of glass and debris when they go into bombed areas to check for further explosives. The Veterinary Corp is now testing strong. lightweight material to re-duce the risks.

"Sniffer dogs are often required to work in hazards environments and can suffer damage to their pads and feet," Major Neil Smith said. The bombing at South Quay added urgency to the problem, he added. "There vas a field of horrible glass." Luke, a three-year-old black Labrador, tried the woven-nylon boots at Aldershot. Hampshire. The handier, Warrant Officer Jeffrey Pedrick, said: "We started slowly, putting them on at meal times because that is a time he enjoys. He is very happy with them."

Cold weather fails to harm fish supplies

FISH supplies and quality 1.8 kg. coffee and cream have held up well despite the gateau (10 portions) £1.99, weather. Whiting is in top mini Cornish pasties 99p for 4. condition, and at £1 to £1.60 a

lb is good value. A drop in the price of plaice. to £2 a lb for whole fish or ... £3.20 for fillets, reflects a drop in quality, and crab is in short supply, with the price up to E3. a lb cooked. Cornish mackerel are around £1 a lb, but sprats at 90p a lb are suggested as the

best buy. The season for British rhubarb has just begun, and prices range from 69p to £1.29 about 260 each.

Promotions include: steaks £3.94 a kg, fresh sage and onion stuffed chicken £1.74 a kg, fresh beef stewing steak E3.49 a kg, fresh potk melons 99p each, potatoes 5 kg for £1.69.

Budgens: fresh chicken £2,84 for 1.5 kg, unsmoked rindless back bacon rashers £1.99 for 400 g, 6in cheese and onion quiche 99p. French apples pick 'n' mix 39p a lb. Co-ope four steak, kidney &

onion pies 99p, whole fresh chicken £4.89 for 2.2 kg, cauli-flower and broccoli mix £1.49 for 907 g. plain/milk choco-late digestive wheatmeal 49p

for 300 g. Harrods: Camembert with calvados £4.95, breast of lamb 50p a lb. smoked Scottish venison £2.20 for 100g, fresh rainbow trout £3.50 a kg. freshly cooked lobster, two for

lecland: unsmoked gammon joint £4.22 a kg. Chinese-style chicken breasts £1.99 for two. cod in batter £1.99 for four, crinkle fry chips £1.49 for

mini Cornish pasties 99p for 4. Marks & Spencer: New Zealand lamb leg knuckle £4.99 a kg. lite vegetable pizza £1.99 for 245g, chicken casserole with hero dumplings £2.29 for 454g, frozen skiriless cod fillets E3.99, loose white seedless

grapes 99p a lb. Morrison: prawn masala balti and nan bread £1.99, cod fillet £4.82 a kg, jumbo haddock £5.93 a kg, shark steak 66.06 a kg, neptune mackerel fillets 65p for 200g; mussels

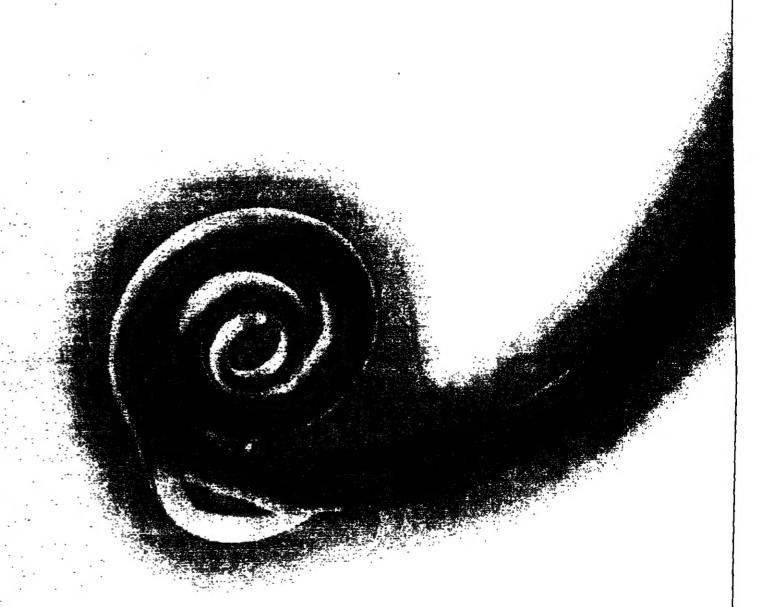
Saleway: topside/silverside/top rump £4.39 a kg, pork ribs Chinese style £2.09 for 720g,

fresh ismb shoulder £2.99 a kg. four fresh chicken fillets £4.29 for 510g, red potatoes £1.30 for 2.5kg. Pizzeria margherita pizza (cheese and tomato) 99p for 330g.

Somerfield: fresh smoked cod fillet £1.57 a lb, chicken korma premium white bread 38p for 300g, black South African grapes 89p per lb.

Teseo: fresh large eggs £1:35 for 12, frozen farmhouse mixed vegetables 85p for 759g. Golden Delicious apples 39p a lb, two dairy cream doughnuts 79p, frozen raspberry. torte 99p. Waitrose: fresh dressed Cro-

mer crab (large) £2.49, extra fine asparagus £1.69 per pack. black figs 29p each, Greek honey £1.99 for 454g.



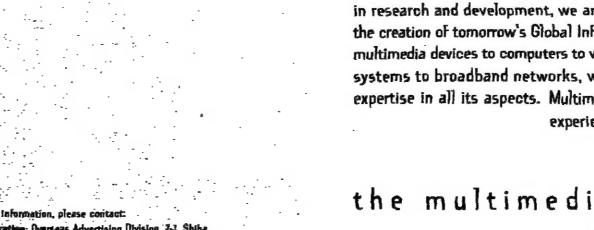
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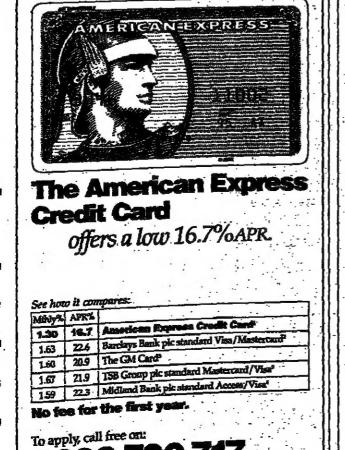
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the multimedia @volution



Albania abandons its bunker and rejoins history

Five years after

the fall of

Communism.

Tirana has finally

shaken off its

paranoia, writes Michael Binyon

MORE than 700,000 reinforced concrete bunkers, sprouting from the ground like giant mushrooms, cover ments to 45 years of paranoid Communist dictatorship.

Every field, hill, outcrop, road and mountain slope is dotted with clusters of these giant warts. Built to foil an imagined Nato invasion, each can accommodate two soldiers. Enough were built so that Enver Hoxha, the late and unloved tyrant, could order half the population into the ground. The bunkers were not the only deterrent to the Western forces the Albanians were told would invade in the vineyard in this fertile land has hundreds of concrete posts holding up vines; on top of each is a metal spike pointing skywards to give parachutists a piercing reception.

The bunkers, now used houses, are almost all that is left of Hoxha's paranoia. In five years since the fall of Communism. Albania is utter-



ers, bustling, eager to join the Atlantic alliance, its former on private enterprise left most first Austrian-built luxury hotel opened. The Tirana Stock Exchange starts trading next month, thanks to Britain's Know How Fund. Mosques are springing up on the ruins of those dynamited when religion was abolished, and most of Albania has been on the streets celebrating the end of

But Albania remains horseand-cart poor. Its gross domestic product is the same as

people baffled: how do you collectivised sheep or decide which family can claim which field? But the instinct returned quickly. Cafés are opening. shops are putting up neon signs and trade is growing, although with Britain it still amounts to a paltry £5 million

But Albanians have less orthodox ways of making money: drug-running along the East-West route from Turkey to Italy is profitable - so

year-old Mercedes costs only \$7.000 (£4,600). Most are either stolen from rich north European streets or lent to drug couriers and then left as payoffs. Blood feuds and brigands

still lurk in the mountains. Three years ago ripples of alarm spread among diplomats when bandits hauled an attaché out of his car and raped him. Things are better now," an official said.

Albanians have flocked abroad to find work in Italy or Greece, or trying their luck as

beggars. Their remittances, from an estimated 20 per cent of the workforce, are a vital

source of foreign exchange.

Liberated from the dreamness of their xenophobic past, history has returned. Statues of the wild hero Skanderbeg, a 15th-century warrior who repulsed 13 Turkish invasions, now bestrides the plinths where Enver Hoxha once stood. The double-headed eagle flies on the flag over the country called, in Albanian, the "Land of Eagles". Islam, the conveniently moderate

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frown on drink, has a profitable payoff: Arabs and even Iranians are pouring money into this newest member of the Organisation of the Islamic

Growth rates in the past fee years have been running at 8 per cent, and President Berisha, a former heart surgeon, is the darling of Western politicians. He paid effusive tribute to John Major during Malcolm Rifkind's four-hour visit and then declared: "I want to thank all British taxpayers for their aid to my

usual even Foreign Office There is a long way to go. The few tourists can expect a bumpy time even from the moment of landing. Tirans, airport is still cobbled, and the last Lufthansa plane to touch down burst a tyre. Roads are potholed, railways, which

outside world, cheap but hardly cheerful. Hospitals are primitive and Western charities essential. But goodwill is

小田堂 海绵

PEAT DEAL

THOMAS

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

leader

£1.5m bail

set for

Basque

WITH ten days to go before a general election in Spain, moves against terrorism conyesterday with the arrest of a warrant for another.

Jon Idigoras, 59. spokes-mart for the political wing of Eta, the Basque separatist organisation, lodged peal after a court in Madrid set his bail at £1.5 million. He had been charged with collaborating with terrorists. He was arrested at his Bilbao home after he refused to accept a summons.

A judge in Navarre pro ince adjoining the Spanish Basque region issued a warrant for the arrest of Floren Aoiz, another member of the 26-strong committee that runs Herri Batasuna (Popular Unity), for inciting terrorism in Navarre, long claimed by the

José María Aznar, leader of the conservative Popular Party, who is expected to oust Felipe González and his Socialist Government, accused the ruling party of failing to act earlier against Basque leaders who advocated violence. "I cannot believe that during 13 years in power they



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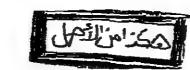




END OF LINE SPECIALS HURRE

THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON

N 97 0 2 91 3



Chirac pledges to scrap land-based nuclear missiles

From Ben Macintyre in paris and Our Foreign Staff

PRESIDENT Chirac announced last night that France would stop producing fissile nuclear material, scrap its land-based nuclear missiles and dismantle the Hades short-range mobile missile.

In a live relevision interview, outlining a shakeup of the armed forces and defence industries, he sought to recapture the moral high ground after worldwide outrage over French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, which ended

The President said he had decided to close down France's only factory manufacturing plutonium and weapons grade enriched tranium at Pierrelatte, south of Lyon. He said the country had plentiful stocks for its weapons needs. "France will no longer pro-duce fissile material," he said. "Naturally," it has what it needs to make its arms."

The President said 18 ageing land-based nuclear missiles the southern Plateau d'Albion would be scrapped and France would henceforth rely on four missile-firing submarines, and aircraft as the two arms for its nuclear

in a gesture to reassure Germany. M Chirac said he had decided after talks with Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, dismantle the Hades ruclear missile, mothballed in 1991, but which worried Bonn because it could only hit German soil if fired.

Under the sweeping plans to overhaul the French defence establishment, troop numbers will be drastically reduced, compulsory military service phased out and the arma-

nents industries streamlined. The French Government is under increasing pressure to reduce spending in the run-up to European economic and monetary union, and with the

end of the Cold War most analysts say reform of the cumbersome French military machine is long overdue. But the far-reaching plans to restructure this most hallowed of French institutions and create an all-professional army by the year 2002 may carry heavy political costs.

.The plan to cut troops; end conscription and rationalise the military-industrial complex mark the most radical shake-up in French defence since General Charles de Gaulle ordered the return of French soldiers from Algeria in 1962 after the Algerian war of independence.

France must achieve a profound reform of its military and defence machine," M Chirac warned his ministers earlier this week.

The President held a meeting with military heads and ministers at a special Defence Council yesterday, before pre-senting his reforms on national television. On Wednesday the Government unveiled plans to merge the two largest aircraft makers, Aérospatiale and Dassault Aviation within two years, and anriounced the privatisation of Thomson SA. one of Europe's leading de-

Chirac seeks profound

The changes are intended to reduce competition within the defence industry while the Dassault-Aérospatiale merger will forge a giant aviation company with annual sales of £B billion. as a prelude to building joint European ventures that can compete with US defence contractors.

The move to end conscription by 2001 and create a professional military corps along British lines is the most politically volatile of the measures. Currently, ten months of military service is compulsory for all French males.

M Chirac has rejected the

idea of holding a referendum on ending conscription, but a national debate will discuss whether to transform the system into a compulsory form of civilian national service. or instead adopt an entirely vol-

untary system.
Up to half the country's ground troops, now numbering 240,000, are likely to be axed over the next five years under the Chirac plan. The cuts could save an estimated Fro billion (£780 million) a year, according to a partia-mentary report published yes-terday, but much of the money would be reinvested in regions most affected by job losses.

The 8,500 strong Foreign Legion is the country's only sizeable all-volunteer force, and most defence analysts agree the existing heavily con-script army is ill-adapted to the rapid foreign military interventions required in the post-Cold War era.

The tradition of military conscription stretching back to the French Revolution is widely revered as a way of instillng literacy and patriotism in raw recruits. Some critics also say the overall quality of French troops will deteriorate if the draft is abolished.



A Royal Air Force Chinook hovers on patrol above Mount Igman as part of Nato's Implementation Force

Bosnian leader rushed to hospital

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE BOSNIAN President, Alija Izetbegovic, who symbolised the struggle for a multi-ethnic Bosnia through 43 months of war, was taken to Sarajevo's Kosevo hospital yesterday morning with heart

Presidential guards sealed the doors to the medical clinic, barring access to journalists, but a spokesman said the alling President was in a stable condition. As members of Bosnia's

collective presidency convened an emergency session to designate a temporary successor, the Bosnian Serb leadership, which has breached numerous obligations established by the Dayton peace plan, issued a press release saying it would re-establish relations with the Nato peace force and the Bosnian Government

Serbs living in the five Serbheld suburbs that are due to revert to government control next month stepped up their exodus, jamming access roads out of the suburbs with tractors, cars and lorries packed with their possessions. Several buildings burnt in their wake, including a kindergarten.

The Serb military and civilian leadership severed all ties Bosnian Government nearly two weeks ago when two of its senior officers were arrested by the Bosnian Government and handed to the UN War Crimes Tribunal. They agreed to renew ties with Nato after last weekend's Rome summit.

Since the 60,000-strong Nato-force arrived in Bosnia to

Dayton deal 'fragile'

THE Dayton peace agree-ment in Bosnia could disintetiative by the recently formed International Crisis Group, which he chairs, to belp grate if its civilian aspects are strengthen peace in Bosnia. The group will focus on the George Mitchell said yester-

day (Leyla Linton writes). The events of the past few non-military aspects of the agreement. These include weeks have shown us that the plans for the return of refupreparations for elecstand-off agreed at Dayton is gees, preparations for elec-tions throughout Bosnia by ipport that we can give it." September, the arrest of 5125pected war criminals, and punced a £1 million ini-

Their breaches have included sniping at civilian buses and Nato troops, abducting 16

Muslim civilians, launching a rocket at a Sarajevo tram, killing one woman, regularly impeding freedom of movement across Serb-controlled territory, shielding indicted war criminals and possessing heavy weapons within the 12.5-mile exclusion zone.

plan, the Bosnian Serbs have

violated a number of key

in spite of these violations, Nato officials assessed the Bosnian Serbs to be in "general compliance" with the terms of the peace accord.

Paris: France became the first European Union country to restore diplomatic ties with federal Yugoslavia to the level of ambassador since war erupted in Bosnia in 1992, signalling an end to Belgrade's isolation. (Reuter)

EUROPEAN SUMMARY

IMF gives Yeltsin poll boost

Moscow: The Internationa Monetary Fund yesterday gave President Yeltsin a valu-able pre-election boost by agreeing to lend Moscow \$10 billion (£6.5 billion) to bolster Russian economic reforms (Richard Beeston writes).

Jean-Michel Camdessus

IMF managing director, said he was satisfied that Russia would comply with the strict conditions attached to the loan and predicted that the package would make reforms in Russia 'truly irreversible". Robert Skidelsky, page 16

Jackal accused of café attack

Paris: Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, 45, the Venezuelan-born terrorist known as Carlos the Jackal, who is in jail here for bombings and hijackings, has grenade attack at a Paris café which killed two people and wounded 34.

in 1992, France sentenced Carlos in absentia to life in prison for killing two French counter-intelligence agents in 1975. Carlos was seized in Sudan in 1994. (AP)

Bildt seeks divorce

Stockholm: Carl Bildt, 46, the former Swedish Prime Minister and mediator in the former Yugoslavia, has filed for divorce from his wife, Mia, 42, a Stockholm court said. The couple separated before his mission in Bosnia. (Reuter)

Snow rescue

Madrid: Passengers stuck for 36 hours on two snowbound trains in northern Spain, surviving on cheese from a nearby farm, were rescued yesterday by Civil Guard tanks (Edward Owen writes).

£3m tag on Château Jackson

THE town of Pont Chresen central France is reveiling the rumour that the pop. star Michael Jackson may be

de Chabenet near by. The great 15th-century castle, with seven towers and 82 rooms, is on sale at an asking ed with the world's most price of Fr25 million (£3.25)

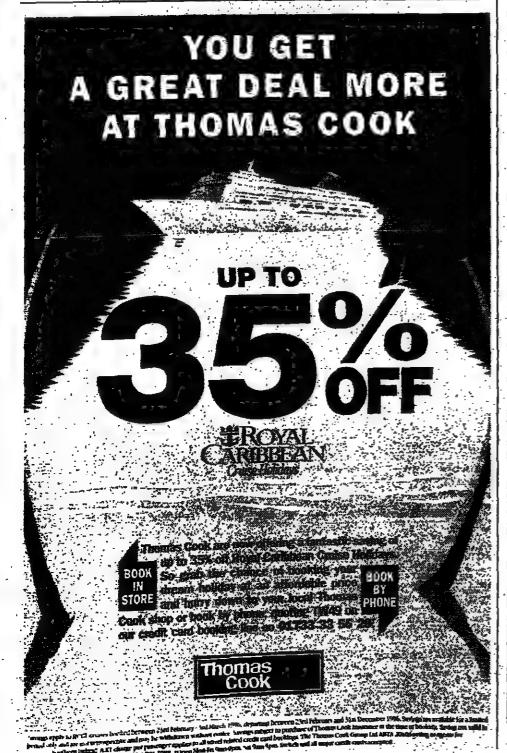
Last week the French newsaper, La Nouvelle Répubique du Centre Ouest, reported that Mr Jackson was thinking of buying the buildBYBEN MACINIYRE

head of the company that has denied being approached by the singer or his agents. But like everything associatpeculiar pop star, this has not

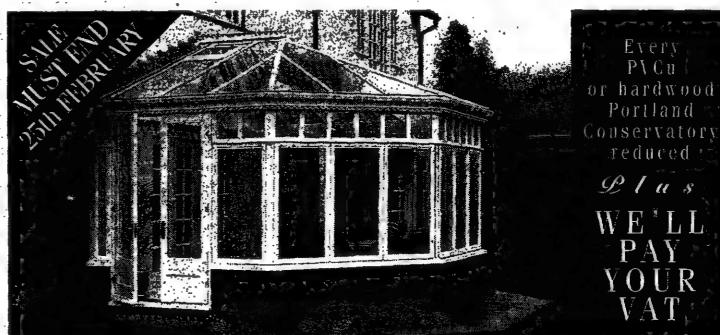
may soon be a neighbour. last week that Mr Jackson was "seriously interested" in buying the vast castle in the

etor of the fortress in his Tours. Residents say they name. American busi-But Philippe Marec, the nessmen eating in local restaurants.

> ment to support the theory that Mr Jackson may move in is the ease with which he could travel, via the airport at Disney theme park outside Paris, "When one takes into account the taste of Bambi las Mr Jackson is known in Francel for the World of Mickey, this last factor could be decisive." La Nouveile



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FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN MANAMA, BAHRAIN

THE ageing King Fahd confounded the Cassandras yesterday and resumed his duties as monarch of Saudi Arabia. just three months after he handed the reins of power to his half-brother.

Crown Prince Abdullah took over power in the world's largest oil producer after King Fahd suffered a minor stroke in November. The announcement yesterday that the 74year-old monarch was back at the helm comes as many of the



member Gulf Co-operation Council are in a state of political turmoil that is causing growing anxiety in the

well as Saudi Arabia are facing increasing internal pressure for political change. After this week's failed antigovernment coup in Qatar, the deposed Emir issued a state-

ment claiming that, rather than being his handiwork, the coup attempt was part of a popular movement against his son, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, who had toppled him last year while he was holidaying in Switzerland.

What is disconcerting is that the former Emir made his announcement from his sanctuary, a hotel in Abu Dhabi, which is part of the United

Arab Emirates and supposed-ly an ally of Qatar inside the pro-Western Gulf council. The fact that a family

squabble of this magnitude should be conducted from the soil of a friendly state is adding to the unease in the Gulf," said an Arab official. "The question everyone is asking is whether the Saudis are covertly backing the unrest in Qatar to punish its new leader for his maverick

Last December the modernising, 46-year-old Emir staged an unprecedented walkout the way a Saudi was chosen as the organisation's new secretary-general. Sheikh Hamad has also upset the Saudis by showing support for democratic reforms.

Iran and other pro-Islamic foes of the autocratic king-doms are delighted at the lack of unity in the Gulf council. To add to its woes, Bahrain, which is also facing an internai revolt from impoverished Shia Muslims, denied claims by Qatar that it was sheltering some of the perpetrators of

Qatari ruling family have been heightened since Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, the deposed ruler, still controls about \$3 billion (£1.94 billion) of the emirate's reserves and has refused to hand it back. The country is facing cashflow problems as well as

large investment needed to evelop its huge gas reserves. Strict security has been imed in Qatar after a threat by the deposed Emir to seize back his throne. Some Arab security experts believe Tuesday's round-up of 100 men

difficulty in financing the

pre-emplive strike by his son to try to prevent a full-scale

insurrection against him. The danger is that the power squabble in Qatar could spill over and affect the neighbour-. ing Gulf states, all of which have similar regimes in which family ties and loyalties loom large. The general unrest is also occurring as dwindling financial resources are putting the future of many of the Gulf

rulers at risk. in Saudi Arabia, television pictures of the overweight and diabetic King Fand hobbling with a stout walking stick did either his or the country's immediate future. He is very frail, said & Gulf official

republica plaught: pulanan

watching the broadcast. His return to power also raises questions about the succession, though most analysts are convinced that it will pass to Prince Abdullah.

To dissidents in the Gulf, and those in exile here and in the West who find the human rights abuses that are rife in the region distasteful, this week's events have reinforced a view that a period of profound change in the world's richest oil zone is close.

Palestinian State hopes raised by Israel-PLO talks

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister's most senior adviser has confirmed he held secret talks with Palestinian leaders, including discussion of an inde-pendent Palestinian State as a means of ending their conflict.

Yossi Beilin. Minister without Portfolio in the office of Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said he had met Abu Mazen and other Palestinian leaders in various places in Europe and Israel over the past 12 months. Mr Mazen is on record as saying there will within the next two years.

Mr Beilin said his discussions with Mr Mazen had given him cause to be more hopeful about reaching a last-

ing peace agreement.

As a result, I got a picture that gave me a whole lot more optimism about the possibility of reaching agreement," Mr Beilin said in response to an article in yesterday's Haaretz. the Israeli daily. But he denied suggestions that any final agreement had been signed between the Israelis and Palestinians. "I did not have the authority to reach some sort of agreement and we did not reach a real agreement."

The talks included debate over a proposal to grant Palestinians full statehood but without an army. Mr Peres is reported to have rejected this particular proposal, preferring a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians. Other issues which came up

for discussion included allowing 140,000 Jewish settlers on the West Bank to remain under Israeli sovereignty. Under proposals discussed by Mr Beilin and Mr Mazen, in return for such sovereignty. Israel would agree to hand over the Jordan Valley to the Palestinians by 2007.

One of the main obstacles in the Israeli-Palestinian negoti-ations is the future of Jerusalem, which both sides claim as a political and religious capital. The Muslim holy sites, the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa mosque, stand on the Temple Mount, the site of the Jewish temple in biblical times. Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have discussed the possibility of such sites being designated special or extra-territorial areas, outside the complete jurisdiction of either side.

Mr Beilin said he had not presented Mr Peres with any final document, but he discussed with him possible ways

forward in negotiations.

Uri Savir, director-general of the Israeli Department of Foreign Affairs, last night described Mr Beilin's meetings with Mr Mazen as strictly

Mr Peres is understood to have agreed with Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, to delay the start of formal negotiations on the final status of West Bank territories and Jerusalem at least until June. due to the calling of an Israeli general election for May 29.



A policeman comforts a child outside Potgietersrus Primary School yesterday, where her father shouted at black pupils

Japan kept

silent on

HIV blood

grine Hodson writes).

supplies were imported.

Sea quake kills

four in Peru

50 homes. (AP)

streets here. (AFP)

Squeezed out

they caused a furore on the



A mother and her children are allowed through the guarded gates of Potgietersrus school yesterday

Police usher blacks into white school

FROM INTOO GILMORE IN POTGLETIERSHUS

AS A large black woman blacks running this country wearing a pink flowing gown swept through the huge iron gates of the former whitesonly primary school, minutes after registering her ten yearold son as a pupil, she could barely contain her joy. "This is history," she cried. A few yards along the

pavement grim-faced white parents looked on in defeat. Standing near the spot where about 200 men and women formed a blockade to prevent three small black children, from entering the premises last month, some of the same parents offered only verbalare arrogant, khaki-clad Ertjies Yeates, 39, a burly toolmaker, protested.

The dispute over admi to the primary school, 150 miles north of Johannesburg, brought the first legal test of non-racialism enshrined in the constitution. On Wednes day, a Supreme Court judge Tribbe Spociatra, ordered that the school could not appeal

Scores of heavily armed points backed by standared vehicles and dogs, were de-ployed yesterday to guard 18 black children who were ac-

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China hits at US over child abuse

FROM JAMES PREVIOUS IN PEKING

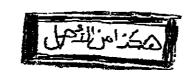
PEKING yesterday accused Americans of being "totally indifferent" to the plight of children in their own country and painted a bleak picture of alleged abuse and exploitation

in the United States. Recent charges by the New

Watch/Asia of abuses in Chinese orphanages were both fabricated and exaggerated. the official Xinhua news agency reported. It was in America. said the agency, that cruelty to children, both physical and psychological, took place daining, it cited a 1994 report of

fed radioactive food in a government-backed * experiment by the Massichuseus Institute of Pechnology Xinhus said that the number of child victims of violent crime in America had risen four times from 1985 to 1995. and that one in five schoolchil-





Republicans lead onslaught against publicans image

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PAT BUCHANAN'S free run ended abruptly yesterday as Colin Powell and other leading Republicans, the American media, and even foreign governments lashed out at his protectionism, isolationism and alleged racism. Mr Buchanan did acquire

one prominent endorsement, but it was one he could have done without. Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Russian ultranationalist congratulated him on his victory in New Hampshire's primary, called him a "comrade and brother-inarms in the struggle for national liberation", and suggested they could co-operate in deporting Jews from their two countries.

Robert Dole's campaign workers meanwhile pressed Steve Forbes and Senator Richard Lugar to quit the presidential race so their supporters could join Mr Dole's battle to stop Mr Buchanan.

The Dole camp also launched a whispering campaign against Lamar Alexander, the Senate leader's main. rival for the mainstream Republican vote, saying his shady financial dealings as Tennessee Governor would prevent him attacking President Clinton over Whitewater.

The virulent attacks on Mr Buchanan reflected the conservative commentator's emergence as a serious contender for the nomination. General Powell damned Mr ing" with extremism, Andre

Buchanan's "intolerance" and said he would not vote for him if he won the nomination. Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Republican Mayor, said: We're going to do everything we can to stop Buchanan. Haley Barbour, the supposedly neutral party chairman, signalled hostility by saying he trusted Republican voters

to make the right choice. On the left, John Sweeney, America's trade union leader, said Mr Buchanan was no

6 Mr Buchanan is going to take a couple of days off ... and then invade.

Poland 9

friend of the workers he claimed to represent. On the right, the American Conservative Union protested that his. hostility to free trade, immigration and big business would damage the movement.

The Washington Post said Mr Buchanan was "as reckless and demagogic a figure as has appeared on the national political stage in many years". The New York Times said he was "not ilirting" but "dancOuellet, Canada's Foreign Minister, deplored Mr Bu-chanan's "old-fashioned protectionism", Mexicans expressed concern. The Israeli media called him a fascist.

America's late-night tele-vision chat-show hosts had a field day. Mr Buchanan was going to take a couple of days off after the New Hampshire primary, and then invade Poland", quipped David Letterman. The heat Mr Buchanan was generating came mostly from burning books

and crosses", joked Jay Leno. Mr Buchanan, who has now been granted Secret Serhuge crowds and considerable funds. He said his critics risked "the unity of the Republican Party" and told them to "calm down, relax, take it easy and don't say anything you might regret later on".

One Republican headache is how to kill off Mr Buchanan

without driving away his sub-stantial following among reli-gious conservatives and the blue collar workers, who will be the key to victory in November's general election.

Though no fan of Mr Bu-chanan, Rush Limbaugh. America's leading conservarive talk-show host, issued a warning that his Republican critics were "not just insulting Buchanan" but also "a large percentage of people in their party who have always voted for them. The immediate



Pat Buchanan at a rally in front of the Mount Rushmore presidential monument

battle between Mr Dole and Mr Alexander may be settled within two weeks, and Dole aides are confident the cashrich Senate leader will prevail. Mr Alexander portrays Mr

Dole as washed up and himself as the only viable mainstream Republican candidate, but to clinch that argument and trigger a mass defection of

win a crucial primary quickly. He will not win Delaware tomorrow or Arizona next Tuesday, meaning South Carolina tomorrow week will be his make-or-break state.

Clinton basks in presidential role as rivals fall out

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE White House avoided any public show of private glee yesterday over Pat Buchanan's triumph in New Hampshire, which leaves a Republican Party at war and President Clinton well above the fray.

Senior aides believe the chasm among the President's opponents will deflect attention from the latest Whitewater revelations in which the White House has just handed over 100 pages of documents sought under subpoena since 1994.

This country doesn't need unother pundit. I'm not going to get involved in their busi-Privately, the President's advisers hope Mr Buchanan's success will result in a riven Republican convention this August and allow Democrats to paint his views as further evidence of extremism among their rivals. "If you liked what you saw in Houston in 1992, you're going to love what you see in San Diego in 1996," Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said in reference to the convention speech four years ago in which Mr Bu-chanan declared a religious and cultural war in America.

For the White House, at least, the strategy for the next few months is simple. As the three leading Republican candidates do battle for their nomination in a bloody whirlwind of primaries and caucuses. Mr Clinton plans to "take the Rose Garden on the road".

He travels to California

today to tout his economic policies at the McDonnell Douglas aircraft plant and plans to welcome the advantages of foreign trade in opposition to the Buchanan view that Mr Clinton has sacrificed American jobs to overseas companies.

A programme of presidential trips throughout the country, particularly to the critical Golden State, aims to present Mr Clinton as a man of substance above the negative tone of the Republican campaign. This stage is expected to culminate in state visits to Russia and Japan before Mr Clinton formally announces his candidacy.

'Americans don't like polines these days," said Don Fowler, national chairman of the Democratic Party. "The longer he can be presidential and not political, the more they will like him. It is that

simple."
High among Republican priorities will be Whitewater, the failed land venture in Arkansas which continues to blight the Clinton presidency. In the latest embarrassment for the White House, a series of documents said to have been "mistakenly overlooked" by Clinton aides were turned over to the Senate Whitewater committee on the night of the New Hampshire primary.

The White House continues its pattern of turning over evidence on weekends, late at night, and on important news days," said Senator Alfonse D'Amato, chairman of the

No holds barred as feminist defends wrestling

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

BRAWN and brainpower combined in an unlikely alliance last night when Camille Paglia, the outspoken feminist attacked an Ivy League university for its "scandalous" discrimination against male wrestlers.

Ms Paglis, an expert in verbal halfnelsons, accused Princeton University of surrendering to political correctness. The university has withdrawn recognition for its wrestling team and instead given official approval to a 🕆 women's water polo team. Princeton. spund" of college enrolment proce-took the step in order to meet sexual. dures, and sporting funds and medical

equality requirements. But Ms Paglia insisted it was "vandalism". She had ridden into Princeton "like a Joan of Arc figure ther words to pepper it with her distinctive high-velocity rhetoric Addressing a university debating society, she said the university's treatment of its wrestlers was "counterproductive and will create a backlash

against feminism' Since 1972 male sports at American universities have had to comply with sexual equality rules. Female athletes must be considered for admission on athletic prowess in the so-called "jock insurance must also be distributed fairly between the sexes. Wrestling has been an official sport

at Princeton since 1905 and the university has done well in intercollegiate matches, winning the Ivy League championship II times. The captain of the team in 1958, William Fortenbaugh, later an Oxford athletics blue, leads a campaign to reinstate the sport, describing it as the perfect activity for sporty intellectuals. "Wrestling is inexpensive and it is quick You get tired in 30 minutes and can then return to your studies," he said. Cutics of the decision have made rithering remarks not only about

women's water polo (which Princeton describes as an "emerging" sport) but about some other female sports at the university. The women's ice hockey club reportedly faces a recruiting crisis because not enough tomboys can be found to hurl themselves into an activity that creates havoc with hairstyles and can cregge noses like Henry

Cooper's. An angry Ms Paglia, author of Sex. Art and American Culture, believes that the laws demanding sexual equality in sport can be compared to affirmative action - nobly intentioned but "it has become an iron-clad system



'Coma miracle' man talks after operation

New York: Gary Dockery, the "coma miracle" man who last week snapped out of a sevenyear silence, has survived an operation that threatened to rob him of his newly recovered speech (Quentin Letts writes). After the operation to remove fluid from his lungs, Mr Dockery, 42, a Tennessee policeman, managed to speak a few words to doctors.

He was shot by a drunk in 1988 and lay in a semivegetative state until last week, when he "awoke" and spuke almost non-stop for 18 hours. He then lapsed into silence and hospital staff in Chattanooga feared the operation might destroy his chances of speaking again.

Once the anaesthetic had worn off, Mr Dockery again spoke a few, halring words. Asked what time it was, he replied "night" and then "three o'clock". He was a little off the mark, as the clock in



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Lady Hollis, heroine of new Labour, tells why divorced wives should get half the pension



Lady Hollis: "Divorce always hurts, but we make it more painful. The letters are heartrending

Lady champion of the broken-hearted

THE

VALERIE

GROVE

INTERVIEW

haired, chic and a PhD, educated at a state school and Cambridge: clearly new Labour fits her like a glove, but her roots were in the levour, salt-of-the-earth "old". Both her parents left school at 12, and strove to make their community a

In the House of Lords it is obvious that she is popular, conciliatory and collaborative, a crossparty networker and team player: in the bar she is constantly greeted and buttonholed by peers of every persuasion.

Her amendment to the Family Law Bill, allowing pension funds to be shared in divorce settlements, will be debated next week. It has enthusiastic all-party support in the Lords, where she led the debate, aided by Tory Baronesses Young

It is simply reasoned in her rapid, breathless delivery. "Divorce lways hurts. But we make the financial settlement more painful, by not allowing the outple to split what may be their biggest asset, the pension. So a loyal wife and mother may face an old age on income

support.
"All we say is that the current value of the pension fund should be included in the matrimonial estate when it is assessed at the point of

Most men would actually prefer may never live to enjoy. It is not an obligation, only an option, and it benefits both the

"The letters we've had are heartrending," she says, "Like the woman who spent 30 years looking she was 'traded in for a younger model'. Her part-time earnings had gone into her husband's pension olan, none of which could be assigned to her on divorce: now she earns what she can, but she faces

Patricia (nèe Wells) was born in

harmonium and sang in the village

It was a traditional dissenting radical background. "But it wasn't at all sour, despite the Methodism and trade unionism and parish politics. It was generous and inclu-

sive and open and optimistic."

From her grammar school, now at 15 to work on the land. Patricia was one of half a dozen who stayed

in history and won a Harkness was in the United States when Martin Luther King had his dream. I marched with my ights campaign.
"I spent my

runs to Mississioni — by Jimmy Hoffa's Teamsters' Union.

Bobby Kennedy for corruption: It was an early lesson in ideology versus pragmatism. She came home with a fiance, Martin Hollis. another Harkness fellow destined for the Foreign Office and Balliol. at the new University of East Anglia, where she still teaches history on Pridays. Their two sons went to the local comprehensive (no Harman-like embarrassments here) and flourished: one went to Cambridge, one to Edinburgh.

er husband, a tall, sandy-haired Wyke-hamist, nephew of Roger Hollis of MI5, is UEA's Professor of Philosophy, a Labour supporter, author of Ratio-nality and Relativism, The Cunning of Reason, and so on. He lists puzzies" as his recreation in Who's Who. When they were young and

aroness Hollis of Methodist chapel, where Patricia, more council houses than any other Heigham is one of the the eldest of three, played the city—as a former leader of the city council. She joined the housing committee just in time to stop the slum clearance of Victorian houses; hence those Sandtexed terraces, now a feature of Norwich's charm. They also rescued 30 medieval churches. Her mentor was her predecessor. Sir Arthur South, an old-style city leader of substance

Tony Crosland spotted her parliamentary potential and co-opted on: she got to Girton College, her into his advisory group, and Cambridge, where she took a first she three times fought Tory Great Yarmouth for

> the offer of a safe-Midlands seat proved to be her glass ceiling.
> "My children were 10 and 12." she says. They would have been living in Norfolk. would be at Westminster with

the Midlands. It wasn't fair on the family." And that, goodbye West-minster, until Nell Kinnock put ber in the Lords in 1990.

When she first arrived in the Lords she recalls telling fellow peers about Alan Clark writing an essay, while at Eton, about a family in which "the mother was poor, the father was poor, the children were poor and the butler was poor". This story was greeted in silence; one peer said: "I know lots of families like that." She laughs.

But she loves the lordly camara-derie, including the hereditary peers who so often bring an expertise from chairing charities. And because there is no braying. it's much easier for women's voices to be heard.

The Commons may be more workmanlike and professional in terms of politics, but since we have no Speaker, there is a premium on the courtesies here. It sounds. flowery at first, but you learn to

decorous exchanges, notable for their candour (Lord Pearson of Rannoch, currently involved in a divorce settlement himself: "It seems obviously fair, fair beyond peradventure, that my wife should in future be able to share in my substantial pension fund ... ") and their wit (Earl Russell: "I can see no reason whatever why one party should suffer all the hardship. There is a case for some fairness even in hardship ... "

When she can tear herself away from Westminster she sings (alto) in the university choir ("fiendishly concentrated; a way of wiping your mind clean of politics"), sails their "Noddy boat" (a 27st motor cruiser) on the Norfolk Broads; and wallows in domesticity: "I like the serenity of a place of peace, I like the warmth and support of a family. I loved those Sunday roasts with three generations of the family round the table."

ast year her husband was away teaching in North Carolina, and their eldest son, the jazz piano-playing Simon, is on a Fulbright scholarship in New York, so the family had a Christmas reunion in snowy Munhaiman

She also manages to write: her last book, Ladies Elect, was on Victorian women who organised school boards and workhouses more women were elected to office in 1900 than in 1980" - and her next will be on Jennie Lee. Appointed biographer by Michael Foot and Lord Goodman, she is fond of her subject but "Coming from the LLP she was a little too keen to divide the world into black and white for my tastes - suspicious of conciliation and compromise."

Quite the reverse of Lady Hollis, who relishes working across party lines. It is not really surprising that she was credited with influencing Alan Howarth's decision to cross the floor - a canard put out by credulous Tories playing cherchez

She is entirely at home in Tony Blair's party, relishing her social security brief because you can make a real difference to people's

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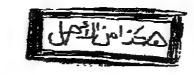
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The Samaritans

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



rriving in Lahore by private jet, wrapped in Local apparel of a very local pink, a studiedly demure Princess of Wales stepped out into the Eastern glare. The colour of her clothes was apt, for the Government of Benazir Bhutto is reported to be quite pink with rage — and our Foreign Office to be a brighter shade of that

hue with embarrassment. The jet in which the Princess flew to Pakistan belongs to Sir James Goldsmith, Britain's most famous father-inlaw. The royal visitor is in this stately Punjabi city to meet Sir James's daughter Jemima and her husband. The former, mercifully, is not called Haiqa any more. The latter, lest you have forgotten, is called Imran.

Imran Khan. Is there a Pakistani better known to us than he? The Princess's visit

1

Imran's new role isn't quite cricket Why are we so fascinated by

Imran Khan? Tunku Varadarajan unravels an Eastern enigma

to Lahore, her dinner with through several of "our" him (sheep's brains and mildly spiced kebabs are what she ate), and her visit yesterday to his cancer hospital have helped the balding, retired cricketer to hit his favourite target - the middle-stump of our imagination

But whence comes the British fascination with Imran? Is it merely because he is thought to be handsome? Is it Oxford? is it cricket? Is itbecause he is an Easterner who, having slept his way

women, is now married to one? Whatever the answer. imran Khan needs deconstructing. Kipling's wily Pathan, clearly, has travelled a long, long distance from his wily North-West ways.

The tale of Imran is, of course, more complex by far than the man: Imran himself is a bundle of self-righteous platitudes and ludicrous Pathan sentimentality. The tale has only partly to do with his 88 Test matches, many of



Jemima and Imran Khan with their royal visitor

them played as a bossy captain. To the British, the interest lies in the following imagined sequence of cultural progression: Imran,"not one

"one of us" (or so we thought). but is now apparently mor one of us" again - or so some of us think, none the wiser after having observed him for

Britain, imbibed the ways of a part of its society, grew to love its pleasures and to pursue them single-mindedly. In the circles in which he mixed, he was viewed indulgently: the British upper classes have always had a soft spot for dashers from the sub-continent. The taboos on interracial sex - so powerful in Kipling's time - had, by the time of Imran's emergence into Stringfellow's manhood, evolved into nothing more malien than the delicious aftertaste of forbidden fruit.

What saved Imran from being dismissed as a bounder, however, was his cricket. He played magnificently, cultivating an imperious on-field

field persona that vital infusion of aristocracy. In time, of course, he came to believe the myths of his own making. His treatment of his team-mates was disdainful: he was the feudal sirdar, or lord, they his underlings.

Yet his esteem in Pakistan has always been measured in a different way. A leader of men, Imran has always struck with awe a population accustomed to the firm hand. In a land where victory on the cricket field is, mistakenty, believed to add to the country's good name, Imran was mised as the man who put Pakistan truly on the map -no small accolade, for Pakistan has been on the

If his hubris drove Imran to stirring deeds on the cricket field. It has caused him to succumb to his country's adulation. It has bestowed upon him a grandeur for which he is not equipped intellectually. His naive endorsements of political Islam, of the frankly primitive ways of many of his Pathan freres, and the richness of his criticism of "brown sahibs" and Western ways, betray immediately that the man is out of his depth.

map for less than 50 years.

Still, he has his cancer hospital, although it is not immediately clear why Pakistan needs such an institution more urgently than basic, countrywide medical facilities. And he and Jemima have had the Princess of Wales to dinner. Not bad going, really. when one thinks about it. Perhams some of us have



Gambling, Hollywood style . . . in Britain the lure is likely to be the free soft drinks

Is gambling in Britain really a dangerous game? Giles Coren reports Sex in spades

emblazoned with a golden horseshoe lumbers under the weight of a stack of poker chips which he has been constructing since II o'clock the previous evening. He hauls them up onto the counter, where a lugubrious old man in a dinner jacker counts them rapidly with

white-gloved fingers. The fingers reach into a drawer and count out a pile of banknotes, which the young man, a 27-year-old lawyer called Man Bourne, folds into his back pocket, "Six hundred and fifty," he says, and purses his lips. "God, I love this place. What about you?"

I, as usual, have no chips left to exchange. I am scrabbling in my wallet for a forgotten pound coin to plug into a fruit machine which might, if I strike the jackpot, make up the deficit of another night sacrificed on the altar of greed.

This is the fundamental human frailty on which Martin Scorsese's Casino (released today) has cashed in, continuing the century-old love affair between casinos and the cinema; but portraying drug dependence, divorce and death as inevitable corollaries of casino life.

Things are a little less grim at the Victoria in London's Edgware Road, one of the biggest of Britain's 120 casinos, where terribly nice young English people are spending more and more time, attracted by the free food and drink at the tables, the chance to play a role on a ready-made film set. money for nothing.

"It is nothing like America." says Matt, who began playing at the Vic after falling in love with cards at the 1992 World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. "There they ply you with drink

until you are throwing your money at them in handfuls. In Britain you get free soft drinks and food, but drinking at the table is illegal."

This law is one of many. enshrined in the 1968 Gaming Act, which are designed to protect innocent Brits from the horrors of gambling. It is because of this Act that British casinos must close by 4am and abide by the notorious 48-hour rule - which forbids you from playing until you have been a member of a casino for at least two days - thus, theoretically. preventing passers-by from blowing their pay cheques on an impulse.

The protection sounds fair enough when you hear Robert De Niro, as a Malia casino boss, say at the beginning of Casino: We're the only winners. The players don't stand a chance." The cardinal rule, he says, is to "keep them playing, and keep them coming back. The longer they play the more

"Ah, but those are the mugs who play croupier games, says Matt. "They have to beat the bank. At poker, I only have to beat you.' Others have a more devil-

may-care approach. Olly is a tall, rangy Old Etonian with choirboy-blond hair who cares less about the losing than the taking part. "It is all so wonderfully tacky." he says. "1 used to go to Crockfords and Aspinalls in Maylair, and found them even more vulgar - but in a country where the pubs shut at II it is the only alternative to an Ecstasy-crazed rave in a muddy

Everyone here is passably well turned out. For gambling, in these days of lonery fever. must be dressed up to differen-

'The croupier pushes a stack of chips — and there you are, smoking and all glamorous'

tiate itself from the cheap pursuit of hopeless wealth. "It is part of the 1990s irony thing, like easy listening and board games," says Liz, a 24-year-old television researcher by day, slinky succubus of the gaming rooms by night. "It is nice to put on smart clothes and go to a silly place where people are playing with

The influence of the movies is not to be ignored. "There is that great scene in Golden-

eye," says Liz, "when Famke Janssen is up against James Bond. Her red lipstick and fantastic cleavage against his jawline and suavity. It is pure sex. The woman invades his macho world, and takes him on on his own terms. The last time I saw a Bond film I was too young to go to a casino, but this time I headed straight

there after the film. "I love the macho environment. All these big fat men look at you like you don't have enough money to play with them, and they are probably right, it will cost you 25 or 50 quid for a couple of decent spins on the roulene wheel, but if you win, then who knows?

"Girls are supposed to be deferent — we have to be paid for at dinner and if we carn more than our boyfriends then we are not supposed to mention it. I have to pretend to be shy all the time. So it's fun to vagger into a casino and jam 50 quid on a couple of numbers."

Among the female players. this sexual reversal seems to be crucial. Imogen, 27, a psychotheranist, explains: Boys get to play at being aggressive all the time, so I like to play up to the plunging neckline image and take on some sweaty businessman. Your number comes up, or

you make 21 at blackjack, the

chips in your direction, and there you are, smoking your cigarene and being all glamorous."

The air over the tables is barely breathable, "Gamblers smoke because they are shortterm thinkers," says Etonian Olly, "You wouldn't gamble if you were someone who thought carefully about the future. You are not even thinking about next Tuesday. It is all about here and now. which is why young people like it. There is just you, your money, your fags and your drink it's a bit like life."

here are nods of concurrence around the craps table. "in a world of Aids, recession, of caution and precaution." agrees Man, "it is important to shut yourself away in this hidden place, play out a fantasy life and forget the greyness of the world."

At about half past three Imogen asks someone the time. No one knows. There are no clocks in the Victoria. And there are none on any casino walls anywhere in the world, In America this is because they don't want you to look up and see that it is morning, and time to join your spouse by the pool. in England, with our puritan closing time, it is just another part of the game.

"It is one area where the Government doesn't try to protect us," says Man, "They haven'i made clocks compulsory yet." And everyone tosses in their chips for a last, alf-ornothing spin of the wheel.

It's a small world in a gap year

THEY ARE everywhere, dressed in ragged shorts and a bewildering array of charm bracelets. Halfway up the High Atlas mountains, in the bar of a Bolivian brothel and on the remotest beaches of Thailand, 18-year-olds with names like Jemima and Freddie are having their "gap year", as mandatory a part of the middle-class maturing process as violin lessons, braces and French exchanges.



No year between school and university is complete these days without at least six

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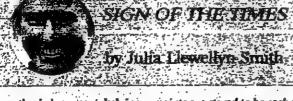
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The more exotic the location, the more credibility

months being spent helping with the harvest in Nicaragua points are stored to be cashed in at the freshers' tea party. And, of course, your Peruvian mobiles look fantastic in your dingy halls of residence, while your tan is set off perfectly by your sky-blue Namibian

> In the 1960s, anyone with pretensions to sophistication did the hippy trail to Kathmandu. The point of such a journey was to have fun, take illegal substances and return with a gostee, an Afghan coat that stank in the rain and a

host of incurable bowel infections. In these career-orientated times, however, no one dares confess that a gap year is simply 2 once in a lifetime opportunity to find a place where beers cost and lie in only a few pence,

to lie in the sun all

the sun' day, to grow your first stubble and to return with scores of films showing your friends swaying bleary-eyed around a camp fire or mooning out of the back window of a bus balfway up the Andes.
Oh no, the whole point of a gap year, practitioners will

earnestly assure you, is to help those less fortunate than oneself and in the process to become a better and wiser Strangely, one seldom hears of 18-year-olds finding

themselves by helping out in a home for battered wives in the suburbs of Leicester. In the 18th and 19th centuries young gentlemen, and sometimes ladies, marked the transition from adulthood to adolescence with a Grand-Tour, usually of Europe. The ostensible purpose of this

journey was to introduce the

ever, in reality, says Dr Jeremy Black, the author of The British Abroad: The Grand Tour of the 18th Century, the sons of the elite were being sent away to sow their wild oats in foreign obscurity.

"Young men of 18 or 19 had nothing to do in those days. when university was basically for aspiring clergymen," he says. The Grand Tour was an ideal way of keeping them occupied for a year or so." Cheap air travel means

such activities are no longer the preserve of the aristocracy. but still the hedonistic spiri

"I spent my gap year teaching in a school in India," recalls Michael Smith, 25. "It

It is a

chance to

drink

ing but the best time I had was travelling with my friends, once term had finished, getting drunk every night and having an extended holi-day at my parents' cheap beer expense." "I went to a kib-

butz, supposedly to learn about a different way of life, but in fact all I wanted was to get away from England and sleep with lots of girls from all over the world." says Dominic Cleveland, 25.

John Patrick, a barrister who spent time before and after university in Zimbabwe, Turkey and Pakistan, says: "I went to these places to broaden my horizons and in some way improve my understand-ing of the world. But I only really found out what life was all about when I became a lawyer and started having to deal with children who had been abused and people who were going through bitter

"Most of my friends could tell you everything about Guatemala City." he adds. "but none of them has a cive what's going on in a council estate in Hull."





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Philip Howard



Scott Minor: could do better — but short measure is not your problem

At.1 The reasons for the institution of this report on the Scott Report are that I have just knocked all six volumes off the mezzanine with my overcoat, almost poleaxing the news editor down below. Others have marked your essay for fairness, thoroughness, clarity and its consequences, with grades from alpha- to gamma-?, This report will deal with its grammar and prose style, in the way that Old Chalky or Robert Birley used to scribble wounding comments in red ink in the margins of our juvenile essays.

Al.2 I question your trick of flagging paragraphs with letters and numbers, as I do have for illustration. This worked for

do here for illustration. This worked for Wittgenstein's Tractutus, but irritates in less well-drilled arguments. Such labelling purports to lend an air of scientific precision to an otherwise rambling narrative AL3 As a general matter of style, how have

you managed to make a thrilling tale of sabre-toothed dictators, merchants of death, superguns and chicanery in high places as boring as Sainsbury's checkout bill

A2.1 Was it necessary to bang on at a length to eat up Sherwood Forest? Editors and pedagogues seldom thank candidates who write more than they are asked for or on both sides of the paper at once.

Bl.I To turn to the minutiae of grammar: how many times have I told you. Scott. that in English the double negative is an absolute no-no? Yet you persist in constructing such sentences as: "I do not accept that he was not personally responsible." This takes the reader time to unscramble, and can end up giving the opposite meaning to that intended, as in: "There is no reason to doubt that what he said in his statement is not true." What was meant here was: "There is no reason to doubt that his statement is true." BI-2 I suspect that your first draft used more positive statements, such as: "He was personally responsible." But after some sixth-formers had criticised your essay, you sought to tone it down with double negatives. First thoughts usually work better than such blurring by committee.

Bl.3 Your proliferation of abstract nouns. capital letters such as MODWG and OGEL, and double passives like "The point is sought to be evaded" add a new horror to Reportspeak. When you have finished with it, the English language looks as though it has been run over by a textbook on leasehold

B1.4 There is no need continually to write "in my opinion". Of course it is your opinion, otherwise it would not be in your essay, and your parents would not be paying large fees to have it corrected by me. You sound like a judge summing up with an eye on the verdict of Westminster.

B1.5 There is too much padding. Why start successive paragraphs with, "Perhaps even more significantly", followed by, "Most interestingly, perhaps"? Perhaps me no perhapses. What you write is either significant and interesting, or not. Presumably the former, otherwise what is it doing in your essay? Death to all formulaic introductions - mere throat-clearing before you get down to business.

B1.6 You display a fourth-form exuberance for showing off with longer and inkhorn terms. Why all these "notwithstandings"? "Though" has one syllable instead of four and is also the word that most of us understand. They not-understand notwith-standing. "Whilst" is an archaism from the old-fashioned register of English once known as Times Ponderoso. "While" is the everyday word. "Whilst" is the word dressed up in full-bottomed wig. Off with its tail! Down with "utilise", up with "use".

ZZZI.99 Such ambiguity is a virtue in poetry. But it is a fault in an essay such as yours to trip your readers so often and make them remount and take your sentences again. Unless, of course, you wanted to be ambiguous. But you forgot that your essay was to be read by the old pedant who has the misfortune to be your form master. At the very least, you should have hired Beetle or one of his ingenious chums in Remove to sub-edit and tighten it up. When all is said and done, you never are. And now, having read your essay, I have what Beetle would call a 'orrible 'eadache. And I must take a couple of aspirates.



"Scott ... comple refuse to go... House teeters...

Now where've I seem that before?"

Come into the Garden

he day I wrote this column, I went to Covent Garden, to hear and see Samson et Dalila by Saint-Saëns, a work I have always loved, and my eyes gleamed when I remembered the Sidney Nolan settings, and the stunning end. Samson has one of the most familiar and beautiful songs in all music, "Softly awakes my heart". (I love to see the newcomers to the work when, with a start, they hear the jewel they know and discover that it comes from the very work they are hearing. I love any opera even more when my companion has never heard the work on offer, because I am introducing her to beauty that I am familiar with, and I now can share that beauty.)

We sat in the orchestra stalls. I always do, because I have poor sight and because I like to be near the stage. Each of the seats cost me £120. I am able to pay such prices. Very many people — I should think almost all cannot. And I forgot, the programmebook, and a thick book it is, costs £3 (though you may take solace in the slip which is given out for nothing, with all the necessary details). No wonder that Covent Garden rarely has more than 17 people in it, most of whom are under the belief that they are in Drury Lane,

seeing Miss Saigon.
But let us scrutinise more closely the Covent Garden tickets and their terrible prices - prices so terrible that only a multimillionaire like me can afford them, while tens of thousands of opera-lovers can only stand outside the building with the pigeons.

My £120 tickets were the highest in the house on that night. Those were the very best, but then the next rung down was £98. The next was £88. The next, £82. The next, £68. The next, £56. The next, £42. The next, £38. The next, £22. Those who are willing to take seats which have a somewhat restricted view (in Bayreuth there are seats from which you cannot see anything of the stage - Covent Garden isn't that bad). can go for a fiver. And you can stand for

Oh, no. I haven't finished yet. Not nearly finished. For I was glowing in the beauty of Samson, but if you were wanting tickets for other operas, every one of those prices would have been substantially cheaper, and if you love the ballet (as alas, I do not) you could Opera is not elitist, but a fountain from which we can all drink - and there are plenty of cheap seats at Covent Garden

actually be asking for tickets at the highest ballet price, snug and warm in the knowledge that those were a quarter artificial in that it cloaks a violent antiof the opera's highest. Now tell me who it was that said that only the rich can go to Covent Garden, and I will spit

At that point our dear colleague The Sun takes a hand. The Sun, you must and that idea does not stretch to opera. Indeed, if our dear colleague ever has its way, there will be no opera in the land, and shortly afterwards there won't be any concerts either. Here is a headline

£50m lotto handout to opera — delight as toff scheme is KOd". At much the same time, the proposed Cardiff Bay Opera House (Wales is always complaining — rightly — that all the great projects go to London) has been cancelled, no

doubt to the pleasure of our dear colleague The Sun.

ow I do not believe in conspiracies: our dear colleague The Sun did not dig tunnels and crawl through the land whispering "Down with opera". But all of a sudden, the word has been transmogrified into something so shocking that when they hear it, stern mothers feel obliged to tell their offspring to go and wash their mouths out There is, I regret to say, a body of people - not necessarily ignorant of the arts and particularly music — who rejoice every time the gloomy Covent Garden financial figures are announced. What is more, within the body of people I describe, there are genuine opera-lovers who would love to see Covent Garden go down the hole, never to reappear. Absurd as it may seem, I

have come to the conclusion that Rodney

Milnes is right when he claims — and it

next year.

arts movement that has spread upwards from the tabloids to infest even the

'quality" press.
And, of course, Covent Garden is the biggest and most gleaming target. Can you believe that there are people who not music-haters, they are only Covent Garden-haters, and they hate it because it is beautiful and rich in glory and sounds that can come only from God. So if it isn't the money, what is from our dear colleague: "The Sun stops it? Well, anyone who puts a foot in-

side Covent Garden can see that the toffs with their millions and their dinner-jackets are a figment of the most hudicrous kind, and that they should be made to wear the Shirt of Nessus for 99 years. For I believe that

there is a tide coming in, a tide of opinion that would sneer at the very foundations of something like Covent Garden. What do you think it means when that creepy-crawly Gummer has to find a site for Covent Garden while it is being rebuilt, and he refuses the most obvious one - the Tower Bridge site, when Southwark council itself is happy to have it? Hark to the Southwark

I am very saddened and deeply concerned by this decision. We left this prestigious development was appropriate for this part of the borough and would have made a

Jeremy Isaacs, throughout his turbulent reign as general director of the Royal Opera House, has had to fight countless dragons, not least, of course, the Dragon Money. He will feel a thousand tons lighter when he steps down, but of course the weight is nothing; to ride that bucking horse is nothing; what he will remember are the glorious sounds he heard and sights of

But it is not only Jeremy Isaacs. I do not believe that anyone with any true feeling can walk into that wonderful building and not think that the world is a splendid place. I go very frequently to Covent Garden (and hardly less frequently to its younger brother, the ENO). What we feel when the curtain goes, up is not just pleasure, but one of the bulwarks that hold up the world. An extravagant metaphor, you say? No, because art is not just something to give pleasure, though it certainly is that, but because the world could not go on without it, and that has been true since those pictures were drawn on the wall at Lascaux that turned out to be more than 15,000 years old, and which were discovered quite by accident all those miliennia later.

And if you put music on the stage and marry these two wonderful arts, there will be no sheering and jeering, except by fools and brutes.

hen you think of it, there are people who have no art in their lives - an almost incredible situation to me. But there are people who are in a yet greater fork: they reject art. True, it is now very rare — though it was very frequent in my boyhood — for men and women to say such things as "Oh, I wouldn't dare to go into Covent Garden": but then dammit, only a year or two ago, I found an elderly lady hovering about the doors of Formum and Mason, who finally asked me: "Can anybody go in there?"

Come on. Jeremy, you have been bruised enough to be sufficiently toughened. And don't forget that when the new Covent Garden rises from the ashes, it will have a new leader. But for now, that building of yours is not just a place where opera and ballet are performed. It is a fountain from which we can all drink (remember, there are lots of cheap seats at Covent Garden), and if you promise not to tell, I will reveal what is the most remarkable fact about that Opera House: it is that the very best acoustics are by no means to be heard in the stalls — the most expensive seats — but in the amphitheatre, where the seats cost only a quarter of what they

Why Boris is still our man

Robert Skidelsky on

the fragile success of Yeltsin's Russia

Ill Russia become a "normal" nation-state, or will it lurch back towards communism? There are three possible views: pessimis-

tic, optimistic, realistic.

The pessinustic view was put trenchantly by Peter Reddaway in The Times of January 23. The West, he said, should "stop taking sides" in Russia's internal politics, recognise that the economic reforms have failed, and prepare seriously for dealing with a Russia run increasingly by Communists and nationalists. This, Reddaway inplies, will be necessary whoever wins in

June's presidential election. A resumption of the Cold War would mean cancelling economic aid, coupled with an eastward expansion of Nato as quickly as possible, to "secure" Central and Eastern Europe while Russia re-mains weak. Such a policy would mark a colossal defeat for the larger hopes which accompanied the collapse of communism. But still there would be sizeable gains to the West - the recovery of the "lost lands" and the confinement

of Russia to a semi-Asiatic ghetto. The optimistic view is that the reforms launched in 1992 are irreversible, and that Yeltsin's Communist challenger, Gennadi Zyuganov, is a skeep in wolf's clothing. Anatole Kaletsky argued in The Times of February 20 that the Communists might be more effective reformers than the reformists themselves, because they would put an end to disorder and corruption. The pessimists and optimists share one conclusion: the West should not take sides, since

nothing much turns on the election.

The realistic view is that a great deal turns on who becomes the next Russian President. The reforms have not failed. but neither are they irreversible. Russia's inflation rate — the main relevant measure of stability — has fallen steadily from 1,354 per cent in 1992, to 140 per cent in 1995, and is expected to fall to 40 per cent in 1997. The economy is expected to grow by 2 per cent this year and 4 per cent in 1997. About 60 per cent of output is now produced by the private sector. The legal basis of a capitalist economy is being painfully built. It is not a brilliant record, but far from one of failure.

he very fact that Yeltsin has to out himself forward for re-election is another proof that Russia is today a genuine; if fragile, democracy, with a multiparty system representing all major interests, and a remarkably free press.To argue that all this can be put into reverse is not to say that the Communists intend to renationalise the whole economy or scrap democracy. But to claim that the Communists can be trusted to carry out the reforms more effectively than Yeltsin because they stand for "law and order", which Kaletsky interprets in a Western sense, is myopic, if the momentum of reform falters, the Communists will have an excuse to reverse much of what has been achieved. Kaletsky ignores the Communists' economic programme. Its centrepiece is to restore the primacy of the old heavy industrial sector and protect Russia's natural resources from "foreigners" and "speculators". Such a programme implies an attempt to remilitarise much of the economy, which would be catastrophic for Russian democracy.

To avert this possibility, it is important to have a reformer in the Kremlin. Yeltsin's reforming credentials are not impeccable, but over five years he has always returned to the charge, sidestepping opposition and gradually fashioning the necessary instruments of power and control. And despite blunders such as Chechenia, he has, on the whole, ruled constitutionally.

None of this means that the West should bank on a Yeltsin victory: his health is so uncertain that he may not even make it to polling day. But it should support him discreetly. The International Monetary Fund's subsidy of the Russian Government, now reduced to \$300 million a month, is a modest

investment in continuing stability. uch more important is for Western leaders to resist the clamour to expand Nato eastwards. Nothing could be more calculated to weaken the position of every democrat in Russia, and play into the hands of those itching to remilitarise the economy. No Russian can understand why we still need such a formidable military machine now the Cold War is over, still less why we seem intent on

extending it to Russia's borders. The idea that the West should have a free hand to reorder the security system of Eastern Europe regardless of Russia's view is both dangerous and historically ignorant: dangerous because Russia will not remain weak for ever, ignorant because no European security system can survive very long without being acceptable to those whose interests are most involved. At its best, the classic European balance of power entailed negotiation, not unilateral action, and this, not the obsolete thinking of the Cold War

era, should be the guide to the construction of a new European security system.
Russia is bound to go on doing things we dislike, being more tracplent than we want, and claiming exaggerated status and consideration. None of this means it is on the road back to communism. But our larger self-interest is to secure a free. prosperous and peaceful world; it is much too early to write Russia out of

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that script

Ear apparent THE PRINCE of Wales has been Prince Harry. His son gets full

rapped over the knuckles for exposing his ears. He stands accused of neglecting the most famous lugholes in the land and the British Safety Council is making an example of him in a nationwide advertising campaign.

The council is appalled by a recent photograph in The Times which showed the Prince without ear-protectors on a shoot with



Prince of Wales: royal example

marks for sporting protectors but the Prince is seen flinching at the sound of Harry's gun.

More than 100,000 copies of the

poster featuring the royal ears. which are commonly compared to the handles of the FA Cup, will be distributed to factories and businesses across Britain to encourage people to protect their hearing.

"I saw the original photograph and I thought that it's a very bad advert at a time when we are concerned about the problems of noise," says James Tye, directorgeneral of the council. The Prince acted pretty stupidly. Being deaf is a terrible thing - so look after your hearing. And that applies to everyone, including the royals."

Royalists have rallied to the Prince's defence. "I think it is wrong," says Robin Scott, editor of Sporting Gun magazine. The council would have had more success if it had said ear-protectors were possibly the best defence against a nagging wife."

 Good news for young blades came during the Oxford debate on Wednesday evening on Pride and Prejudice. Colin Firth, who played Mr Darcy in the BBC adaptation, is far less glamorous than his

screen persona. "He had to lose a lot of weight for the part and dye his light-brown hair dark," said the director, Simon Langton. "He doesn't look like Darcy in real life. He says that he is not even recognised in the pub."

Hats off

LORD WADDINGTON, the Governor of Bermuda, has decided to lay down his preposterous plumed helmet. Despite the luxurious colonial trappings he enjoys on a tax-free salary of some E75,000 a year, he has informed



"One more scoop or you'll

Jack the lad IT'S A SHAME that the Princess of Wales is on a private visit to Pakistan, rather than on an official tour. She would otherwise have encountered Christopher

the British Government that he

wishes to return to Blighty early

to do," says the 66-year-old former

Home Secretary. And for family reasons I would like to how out in

Waddington's tenure in Bermu-

da, which began in 1992, has hard-

ly been onerous given its meagre population of 60,000. When Earl De La Warr was offered the post in

1941, he turned it down, complain-

MacRae, the British High Com-

missioner who lives in Islamabad.

MacRae, an athletic chap with a

ing: "It's no bigger than Bexhill."

the first part of 1997.

I was asked what I would like

sense of humour as dry as the Thar Desert, would have regaled her with his latest interest - his ancestors. He has recently been to the capital of Baluchistan, on the trail of his grandfather's cousin. "Jack was a colourful eye-sur-

geon who, in the early years of this century, cut down a local who had gone berserk and committed several murders," MacRae has been telling friends. "He then stitched him up again — so that he could stand trial and be hanged."

Glossy Tone

NEW LABOUR is going glossy— a magazine as shiny as Tony Blair's smile will soon be available to party members. Labour Party News, which is circulated to party activists, is to be replaced by New Labour, New Britain. Next week, the National Executive Committee will fine-tune the details of the

publication "It will be much glossier and aimed at the whole membership of the party, not just activists," rasps a surly spokeswoman. We hope it will look like a Sunday supple-

ment magazine," she says. **Body politic**

HE WAS depicted as the villain of

the piece in the BBC2's cult docu-



mentary series The House. But nothing could have prepared Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs at the Royal Opera House, for the reaction elicited by the programme from certain

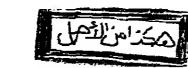
It is reported in this week's Spectator by no less an authority than Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the opera house, that ladies are

forever swooning over his man.

"A smitten French countess, am solemnly informed, has offered a substantial sum for the body of Keith Cooper," writes

Cooper is modesty itself. "It's exnaordinary," he says. "But if I am going to give my body. I should benefit from the proceeds, not the opera house."

A Social Market Foundation confer-P·H·S ence on investment in Russia will be held at the European Bank on March 8.





ISLAM AT SCHOOL

Christians respect other faiths by strengthening their own

Squabbles among religious denominations stunted the growth of England's education system in the last century. Squabbles over the proper place for our established religious traditions could equally blight the development of Britain's schools in the next. The withdrawal of Muslim children from religious education in Batley and Birmingham is an unhappy commentary on multifaith teaching and a challenge to the future of our multicultural society.

The 1988 Education Reform Act instructed schools to cater for the "moral, spiritual and cultural welfare" of their pupils. Schools are under a legal responsibility to provide religious education which reflects the UK's Christian traditions. It is a responsibility many discharge poorly, if at all. Last June Dr Nick Tate, the Government's main adviser on the curriculum, gave warning that Britain was "far advanced towards becoming a religiously illiterate society". RE is too often reduced to a relativist canter through the world's faiths in which Stone Age superstition merits the same reverence as the faith which underoins our civilisation. In a recent survey half of those between 16 and 24 did not know what Lent was.

And yet while the young are ignorant of the 40-day fast, they are more spiritually hungry than ever. It is interest in vapid New Age banalities and enthusiasm for cults and sects which absorb school-leavers. The credulity which hopes to find in the earth mother the spiritual satisfaction that our finest thinkers found in the Holy Father is a sad consequence of RE teaching.

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lact on wh

Islamic families are already ill at ease with the predominant secular liberalism of the West which declines to defend absolute values. It is understandable then that as Muslims they should wish to withdraw their children from RE lessons which cheapen all faiths by vaunting none. And it is unsurprising that the strongest support for the Muslim militants should come from Chris-

tians who see their own faith cheapened by relativist religious education.

Religious education from an Islamic perspective might have much to recommend it. Islam is, at its best, an intellectual religion with a rich cultural heritage. It inculcates admirable moral virtues such as selfdiscipline and a proper concern for the poor. A wider appreciation of the nobler strains in

Islamic thinking might improve Christians' own understanding of their traditions.
But in granting Islam its proper place, and conceding some of its claims, it would be wrong not to recognise that the United Kingdom is still a nation built on Judaeo-Christian foundations. From Milton to Eliot, the glories of our culture are rooted in the two Testaments and our durable morality is-

sustained by the spiritual insights of Jesus. Muslim nations expect compliance with their customs by those of other faiths. It is Britain's boast that religious liberty has been guaranteed since 1688. That liberty was preserved, however, by a people confident in their Christian traditions. More confidence now in upholding them would command greater respect from those of other faiths than agonised abdication.

It may be acceptable to allow separate RE for Muslim children. But the State should be wary of moving from there to funding separate Muslim schools. Segregated Mus-lim education would delight Islamic fundamentalists and do little to advance racial harmony. There is already evidence that the values Muslim parents wish to see instilled in schools are already being transmitted by those establishments most self-confident in their Christian faith. The Muslim parents of Maida Vale found their children's welfare was best guaranteed in the rigorously Catholic classrooms of Philip Lawrence's school. The greatest compliment a still-predominantly Christian Britain can pay citizens who cleave to other faiths is not to

neglect its own inheritance.

EUROMYTHS THREE

Interests and illusions in European foreign policy

In Turin a month from now, heads of state will launch the European Union's latest inter-governmental conference. To what end? At Madrid last December, the best answer was that it would "bring the EU into line with today's realities and tomorrow's requirements". This wondrous bit of drafting saved politicians from admitting that they cannot agree what these "realities" and "requirements" are.

Such chopped logic is squarely in the tradition of the most tenacious of Euronyths: first create an institutional framework, and automatically there follows the requisite political will. At the conference, this ymyth will be abused in support of a tighter common EU foreign and security policy. The argument goes like this. Europe will never count for anything in the world until the EU. acts as one. It will act as one only if all its members accept give and take to arrive at common policies. To this end, they need a body to manage common foreign policies and a "European defence identity".

The first problem with this reasoning is that it stands history on its head. Alliances form where vital interests coincide - and not the other way round. They dissolve without the glue of common interest. The reason is simple. Foreign and security policies are fundamental expressions of national interest, not to be compromised unless compromise furthers that national interest. Each decision has to be taken on merit.

The argument that "Europe" would carry more weight by pooling sovereignty is equally subject to the test of pragmatism. It can be valid only when working together is more effective than preserving national freedom of action. Over former Yugoslavia, the problem was not the lack of a common foreign policy apparatus but the deep disagreements about what to do, Equally, many EU governments opposed military action to drive Iraq out of Kuwait; it is ludicrous to magine that Britain or France would there-

fore have declined to commit their troops. Germany's official answer to this is more majority voting, its unofficial answer is that Germany and France would drive the common foreign policy machine. In either case, bitter divisions would ensue, making Europe less, not more, stable and respected. France proposes that there should be an

EU "secretary-general for foreign policy", appointed by the Council of Ministers, "to give Europe a face and a voice". This would certainly give Washington what it has long wanted - a "single telephone number for Europe". Richard Holbrooke complained this month that during the latest confrontation between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean, "the Europeans were literally sleeping through the night". But a wake-up call to Brussels which revealed only that "Europe" was still thinking out its position would merely add to US exasperation.

Today John Major steps into the minefield of Europe's "defence identity" in a speech to the Western European Union. If the EU is serious, it has first to decide who will pay and how much. Even France is now slashing its defence budget. Unless a common defence policy enhances Nato's already proven capacity to project power jointly, it will hardly make Europe more stable.

EU governments can and should co-operate more closely. But the best way to do so is for governments that are ready to exert leadership on a particular issue to look more actively for allies. A case in point is Bosnia last summer where, however late in the day, Franco-British pressure galvanised America. into setting up the Holbrooke mission. The key decision, however, was to send in armour and artillery - a risky course of action that would never have been decided by, or left to, an EU committee however skilfully it was constituted. So long as the interests of the EU's 15, or 25 future, members diverge, the most likely result of a prior commitment to act in common would be paralysis.

LAND OF EAGLES

Albania is a growing country - and grateful too

Seldom can a visit so short have produced a welcome so effusive. Malcolm Riskind touched down in Tirana on Wednesday on his way home from Greece, and President Berisha was delighted. "I would like to thank the British taxpayers for all the help they have given to my country." In turn Mr Rifkind was able to announce the appointment of the first British Ambassador to serve in Albania. Yesterday a happy Albanian Finance Minister - surely one of the world's more thankless appointments - was able to state that the Bank of England is finally. after a delay of 50 years, to return 1.5 tonnes of gold to the impoverished state treasury.

Cut off by 45 communist years, Albania has bounced back into the world. There is little that its people can do about the 700,000 concrete bunkers scarring their land, but they can at last celebrate their democracy. their increasing normality and their Muslim religion - as they have been doing in force they go to the polls. President Berisha's Democracy Party faces a strong challenge, but he himself, a smiling heart surgeon, remains popular. An 8 per cent growth rate may be easy, in a country that five years ago had no private cars and only 40 lorries. But

it is a growth that has made this Land of Eagles live up, at least partly, to its name. Albanians boast a wild and glorious

history: Skanderbeg, their 15th-century hero, held out against 13 Turkish invasions and became the toast of medieval Christendom. Later, forcibly converted, Albanians served as janissaries to the Ottoman sultan and monarchs in his Egyptian provinces. Albanians have produced figures as craggy and idiosyncratic as their unique language: from Enver Hoxha at one extreme to Mother Teresa at the other, with the bizarre King Zog adding a touch of unreality.

Nowadays, this country of only 3.3 million, off the tourist track and as poor as The Gambia, is often overlooked. It should not be: it has played a restrained and responsible role in not inflaming its ethnic cousins in Kosovo; it has sought to learn the ways of the West with an innocent enthusiasm that has heartened international lenders; and it has shown that a little knowhow assistance, sensibly applied, can bring enormous changes. The world may miss the the once raucous propaganda from Radio Tirana, now thankfully silent. Instead, it has the gentle thanks from one of the few leaders ready to acknowledge outside generosity.

The case against the Attorney-Gen-

solicitor's note of a meeting held by Michael Heseltine with the officials, it The President of the Board of Tradej exed serious concern at the overall basis of the prosecution. The papers he had seen suggested that Departments had been well aware of the intended military use of the goods yet the defendants seemed to be be-

From Lord Hutchinson, OC

Sir, Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC,

writing in praise of the role of the At-

torney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, in

the Matrix Churchill case (Give Lyell

a fair trial", February 20), states that

it was well understood that the min-

ister had to identify and advance to

the court the public interest in the doc-ument being withheld. The court then

had to balance that against the advan-

tages of disclosure in the individual

case. That is exactly what Lyell advis-

The President goes on to say that if the judge allowed disclosure "it would look as though he had been engaged

ing prosecuted for concealing that from the

in an attempted cover-up".

The Attorney-General's legal secretary conveyed the President's view to the Attorney ("He thinks it to be in the public interest for the document to be disclosed"). She included her whole file, and warned the Attorney that the prosecution may yet come to a sticky end" [GI3.64].
Four days later Sir Nicholas, with-

out reading any of the documents. nonetheless told the President that in law it was his duty to claim immunity for the documents on grounds of the public interest, "whatever his person-

al views" [G13.65]. Michael Heseltine signed a PII under protest and only on the understanding that the Attorney would see that the judge's attention was drawn to his views. He expressed his own views in a letter to Sir Nicholas. This letter, to Scott's "astonishment", was left unread until after the trial [G13.70].

Prosecuting counsel was not told of the President's view, nor of his letter, and neither was the judge. Counsel was instructed by Customs and Excise solicitors to resist disclosure and submitted that the documents were irrelevant to the defence. He told the judge that the President's attitude

Tanker disaster

From Mr Arthur Ellison

was no different from that of the min-isters who had agreed other certificates.

Lyell's decision 'an abdication of the duties of his office'

Sir Richard Scott comments on the absurdity of the notion that a minister who believes justice requires the documents to be disclosed is nonetheless obliged to recommend to the court that they be not disclosed. I have no hesitation in rejecting it [G13.113].

eral surely is that he abdicated the duties of his office. He has the superintendence of all prosecutions; he is ed and what happened".

1 refer Lord Alexander to the Scott report. At G13.58 is set out the DTI's given the power to intiate or stop any prosecution: he is head of the Bar of England; he is - as Lord Shawcross put it in a statement in the Commons in 1951 - "the protector of the public

> While insisting on the President's duty to claim immunity in relation to documents essential to the defence, Sir Nicholas was happy to allow another minister, Kenneth Clarke as Home Secretary, to waive protection and exercise his discretion to disclose Secret Intelligence Service operations and procedures on behalf of the Crown when the latter wished to call an SIS contact of one of the defendants, Mr Henderson, in rebuttal to the defence [G13.101]. No balancing act on judicial decision there!

Scott found that "this was a prosecution which never should have been commenced" [Gl.1]. It was the Attorney-General who could and should have stopped it.

Yours faithfully, JEREMY HUTCHINSON, House of Lords. February 20.

From Mr Martin Thomas, QC

Sir, The question the Attorney-General has to answer is why public interest immunity certificates were used in the Matrix Churchill case at all.

The first criminal proceedings in which PH certificates were ever used were Ex parte Osman in 1990 (letter. February 21) concerning extradition to Hong Kong. In that case, the court refused my application to read the docu-ments for which immunity was claim-

In a subsequent hearing, in Febru-ary 1992, counsel for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, despite the suggestion of the presiding judge, Lord Woolf, refused to release for inspection by the judges the documents subject to a PH certificate claim. This was said to be "on principle" - aithough the Hong Kong Government did accede to the court's request and their documents were indeed inspected by the judges, who decided, no

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

doubt for good reason, not to disclose them to me. The Attorney-General could have instructed counsel in Matrix Churchill to withhold the documents as "sensitive material" under the Attorney's guidelines of 1982: these are standard procedures customarily used to protect sensitive information in the hands of the authorities. All courts and counsel are familiar with

But in June 1992, the Court of Ap-peal in the Judith Ward case (Law Report, June 8, 1992) ruled for the first time, that documents withheld under the guidelines should be disclosed to the trial judge and that he, and not prosecuting counsel, should decide whether the defence should see them.

This was the background when Treasury counsel, who had appeared for the FCO in 1990 in Ex parte Osman, advised the Attorney on September 3, 1992, that it was appropriate for ministers to sign PII certificates in Matrix Churchill.

Ministers were led to suggest that death — or, in Tristan Garel-Jones's by now famous phrase, "unquantifiable damage" — would happen if the defence got hold of the documents. As Scott rightly states, never before had a PII certificate been employed in a criminal trial before a judge and jury in Britain.

Did it cross the Attorney's mind that the prosecution might have the option on principle to withhold these documents in the trial? Or that the trial judge might be so impressed by the threats that the heavens would fall, as not to inspect them? Or that he might be less ready to release them to defence counsel than documents withheld under the guidelines and therefore subject to the new Ward principles of inspection and disclosure? Thank goodness Judge Smedley

had the guts not to fall for it. Yours sincerely MARTIN THOMAS. 1 Dr Johnson's Buildings,

Labour's policy on school standards

From the General Secretary of

Sir, The Sea Empress incident (re-ports, February 22) highlights again the damage these ships cause to our and the seas around them. The Dutch firm that won the contract to salvage this ship is world famous in this type of work. However, they obviously did not have one of their own powerful tugs immediately available to tackle the job. The Sea Empress did refloat but the tug power on site was inadequate in the prevailing weather conditions and the ship regrounded. A large powerful Chinese tug assisted

for a short time. It has now emerged that the pump room in the Sea Empress became flooded, making discharge of the cargo to another tanker a very difficult and lengthy process. The possibility of explosion, highlighted by the media, was most likely to have come from the oil gases in the flooded pump room.

To minimise future disasters of this nature, surely the British Government and Lloyd's could jointly support their own salvage tug and equipment, perhaps based at Falmouth?

Tighter inspection of channel depths and illuminated channel buoys in the approaches to oil-dis-charge ports and of tanker arrival draughts appears to be necessary. These measures would be inexpensive and simple to establish and would perhaps reduce the likelihood of similar accidents in the future.

Yours faithfully, A ELLISON, I Southcroft Drive, Chapmanslade, Westbury, Wiltshire, February 22.

Accordion band

From Ms Gwenneth Bransby Zachary

Sir, Barry Millington tells us in his review (February, 20) of the performance of Prokofiev's Cantata for the 20th anniversary of the October Revolution (BBC Symphony Orchestra under Mark Elder) that the accordion band went uncredited. Please allow me to provide the missing information: Owen Murray, Wilhelmina Drayton, David Farmer, Murray Grainger, Phuyong Nguyen, Neil Varley and

What is remarkable is that six of these accordionists were trained in London. Owen Murray (whose agent am) is Professor of Accordion Studies at the Royal Academy of Music and his six colleagues in the band were either past or current students.

The performance was a credit to Owen Murray's pioneering work on behalf of this fascinating but underappreciated instrument, and also to the Royal Academy of Music, the only music college in the UK sufficiently enlightened to offer accordion studies within its syllabus.

Yours faithfully. GWENNETH BRANSBY-

ZACHARY. Director, GBZ Management, The Italian Building, Dockhead, SEI.

kett's assurance that schools will run

the Secondary Heads Association

Sir, I was surprised and disappointed ivid Blunkett (letter, Februar) 15) should challenge the commitment of the Secondary Heads Association to raising educational, standards, and suggest that we stopped short of supporting practical measures. It was precisely because we found so few practical measures in it that we criticised his party's document, Excellence for Everyone (report, February 13).

We warmly welcome and fully share Labour's commitment to raising standards and we have plenty of practical proposals, based on experience and knowledge of schools, to of-fer to Labour, if they would care to ask. So far, they have not done so.

Mr Blunken's letter deals with three practical matters. The first is a national qualification for heads. We support this and, if the qualification is based on sound training and proven practice, no governing body will wish to appoint a head who has not obtained it. A national register would be a bureaucratic irrelevance.

We are delighted to accept Mr Blun-

Causes of the left

Sir, I object to Daniel Johnson's complacent canard (article, February 21) that the New Statesman has been the home of lost causes since Anthony Howard ceased to be editor. I should, for example, think that Duncan Campbell's brilliant series of "secret society" articles in 1987, culminating in the exposure of the spy satellite Zircon, counted as a substantial winning

In my own time as editor, the New

try. Right-wing writers are making an important contribution to that debate, but on the case for democratic change and its direction, the left and liberal intelligentsia have more than proved their equals. Yours etc.

STUART WEIR (Editor. New Statesman, 1987-91) 15 Grazebrook Road, N16. February 21.

Many thanks

From Mrs Rebekah Budenberg

Sir, Perhaps the solution to extracting thank-you letters from children (letters, February 16, 20) is to make it clear that no letter of thanks means no present next time. This should also apply to adults receiving presents from

Yours faithfully. REBEKAH BUDENBERG. 50 Main Street, Medbourne. Leicestershire. February 20.

From Mr David J. Powell

Sir. With a little more hardware added to his computer, Mrs Jean Stephenson's grandson (letter, February 20) could have sent his thank-you letters by e-mail or fax, so avoiding the equal-

be restored to local education authorities: that is precisely what we were to find.

themselves and that powers will not

Thirdly, we fully support the principle of homework and it is helpful to have national support for it. We are enthusiastic about study centres for pupils who have poor home facilities for doing homework. We just do not believe that it is the business of ministers to prescribe the quantity of work for every child in the land.

It is sad that Mr Blunkett should react to criticism by insulting our professional commitment. He should really try to understand the message we are sending him: we support his aims. We just want to know how they are going to be achieved and we are ready and willing to discuss these matters with him.

Yours faithfully. JOHN SUTTON. General Secretary. Secondary Heads Association. 130 Regents Road, Leicester. February 16.

a recent article in The Daily Tele-

graph has suggested that Charter 88

may prove to be "the most persuasive

As the Scott report demonstrates

once again, the causes the New States-

man identified in 1987 go to the very

heart of political debate in this coun-

think-tank of the past decade".

ground and to have profoundly influenced both Labour Party policy and public opinion. Matthew d'Ancona, in

From Mr Swart Weir

streak.

Statesman took up the causes of democratic renewal, constitutional reform and citizen's rights, and in 1988 I founded Charter 88 from its offices to campaign vigorously for these causes. We can fairly claim to have seized a major chunk of the intellectual high

ly old tradition of an invigorating walk to the post-box.

> Yours faithfully DAVID J. POWELL Tree Tops, Brooms Green, Dymock, Gloucestershire,

> > From Mrs Jennifer Donkin

Sir, In our heritage-conscious times is saying thank-you now to be regarded (Mrs Stephenson's letter) as "an old

Yours faithfully, JENNIFER DONKIN, 13 Roman Hill, Barton. Cambridge.

Business letters, page 25

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

— what a drama From Mr Rodney Bewes

The Thames stairs

Sir. The stairs and steps which once gave access to the Thames, and which the London Rivers Association now plans to rebuild (News in brief, February 14), were once of great importance to the theatrical profession.

The ferrymen and wherrymen brought the public across the river to the theatres, and Thomas Doggett, actor-manager of Drury Lane, started his famous race in 17)6 (still raced today) to thank the watermen for bringing his audience to him, as well as in praise of the royal house of Hanover.

There must be over 50 sets of stairs between Chiswick Steps, halfway up the Boat Race course, and the Thames Barrier. If I were to row from Pumey to Charing Cross Pier, a few steps from the stage door of the theatre where I work, I would pass Red House Stairs at Battersea and Yorkshire Grey Stairs at Chelsea. Ahead would lie Old Bull Wharf Stairs at The Temple, Stew Lane Stairs after Puddle Dock, Old Swan Stairs by London Bridge, and Fountain Stairs on the south bank at Bermondsey.

On the north bank, after Tower Bridge, come Union Stairs, Wapping Old and Wapping New Stairs, King, Pelican and New Crane Stairs at Shadwell, and Coal and Bell Wharf Stairs at the beginning of the Lime-house Reach. On the opposite bank are Globe Stairs, Shepherd and Dog Stairs, Cuckold's Point Stairs and Gardens Stairs by Greenwich Pier.

And that's just a few! Yours sincerely, RODNEY BEWES (Freeman, Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames). c/o Playhouse Theatre. By Arundel Stairs. Embankment, WC2. February 20.

Hereditary peers

From Mr Richard Berkley-Matthews Sir, In the debate in your columns over the future of the House of Lords (letters, February 9, 13, 16), nobody has acknowledged the advantage produced by the presence of the hereditary principle — the random selection of very much younger members than could ever be made by election or appointment. Shame on the elected house that in January 1995 it fell to the then 24-year-old Lord Freyberg to sort out the position of pension-dependent

Yours faithfully. R. BERKLEY-MATTHEWS, As from: 35 York Mansions,

College loyalties

From Mr Nigel L. Denton

Sir, Oxford University's Commission of Inquiry is, of course, quite right to resist pressure to reform the college system (report. February 19). My own loyalty is entirely to my own college. New College. I still retain many friendships from my undergraduate days there. Although I read mathematics, lasting friendships were formed with contemporaries reading classics, English or history.
In the chapel of New College there

is, perhaps, the clearest indication that the college never rejects its own as there is a war memorial to German members of the college who were killed in the Great War: "In memory of the men of this college who coming from a foreign land entered into the inheritance of this place &, returning. fought and died for their country 1914-

Yours faithfully, NIGEL L. DENTON, 12 Maria Court. Southoote Road, Reading, Berkshire.

Uncivil comment

From Ms Jeanie Fenwick Elliott

Sir. The contention made by Professor Alec Broers (report, February 21) that engineers are dull and need to "get themselves a life" receives support from another quarter. As pointed out in your columns in June 1994, the entry under "Boring" in the London Central Yellow Pages reads simply: "See: Civil Engineers".

Yours faithfully, J. E. F. ELLIOTT, 26 Pembridge Villas, WII. February 2!.

Home and away

From Mr Norman McCandlish

Sir, In the new era of professionalism, it's time for the Rugby Football Union to find a new anthem for their team. It is arrogant to appropriate the anthem of the United Kingdom to England alone. It causes much unseemly booing when played at away matches, which can only add to the weight of alienation and rejection felt by Jack Rowell, the manager, and his lads as they prepare to face their op-

An appropriate anthem shouldn't be difficult to find. Perhaps Ted Hughes could be persuaded to fit words to The Archers' signature tune.

Yours sincerely, NORMAN McCANDLISH, Knockintober, Ballinluig, Perthshire. February 20.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 22: The Queen this afternoon visited the United Westminster Almshouses, Rochester Row, London SWI, and was received by the Foundation Chairman (the Lady Trend) and the Lord Alan Bradicy).

Her Majesty toured the Almshouses, escorted by Sir Reginald Pullen (Warden and Clerk to the Trustees) and Miss Alison McWilliam (Matron, Kent House), and met residents and staff.

ST JAMES'S PALACE February 22: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received Mr John James (Secretary

and Keeper of the Records).

Today's royal

engagements

His Royal Highness, Patron renresentatives.

The Prince of Wales later attended a Luncheon with Her Majesty's Judges at the Central

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of

The Queen, will hold an investi-ture at Buckingham Palace at

The Princess Royal, as Patron of

Victim Support Scotland, will at-

tend the National Visitors' Con-

ference at Glasgow Moat House Hotel, Congress Road, at 10.30am;

as Honorary President of the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association, will visit the Firhill

Business Centre, 84 Firhill Road,

Woodside, Glasgow, at 1.40pm; and, as Patron of the National

Autistic Society, will attend the

rist, London, 1633; John Blow,

South West Appeal thank you event at Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire, at 7,30om. The Duke of Kent, as President of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, will attend a discourse given by Mr Tony Sale. at Albe-mark: Street, London WI. at

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at Ilam. The Oueen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30am.

Birthdays today

tor. 48: the Duke of Beaufort, 68; Miss Pam Blundell, fashion designer, 29; Mr Jermyn P. Brooks, Waterhouse Europe, 57.

Mr James Cousins, MP. 52: Lady Digby, 62: Lord Ezra, 77: Miss Margaret Farrer, former chairman, Central Midwives Board, 82: Mr Frank Gerstenberg. Principal. George Wasson's College, Edinburgh. 55; Mrs Maureen Hicks, former MP, 48.

Mr Nicholas Kenyon, Controller, BBC Radio 3, 45: Mr John Lewis, Head Master, Eton College Anton Mosimann, chel. 49: Lord

Mr Colin Sanders, founder Solid State Logic, 54; Mr Martindale Sidwell, organist and conductor, 80; Miss Helena Sukova, tennis player, 31; Lord former president, Law Society, 59: Dom Aelred Watkin. former Headmaster. Downside School.

Criminal Court, Old Bailey,

London EC4. His Royal Highness. Chairman. the Royal Collection Trust, this afternoon attended a trustees meeting at St James's Palace. The Prince of Wales, Patron.

His Royal Highness, President, WaterAid, later held a Dinner for supporters at St James's Palace.

Intermediate Technology, this eveing held a Reception at St James's

KENSINGTON PALACE

February 22: The Duke of Glouces-ter. Patron. the London Choral Society, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, this evening attended a Concert at St John's Smith Square. London

The Duke of Kent has been pleased to appoint Mr Andrew Palmer to be an Extra Equerry to His Roya

Anniversaries BIRTHS: Samuel Pepys, dia-

composer, Newark, baptised this day, 1649; George Frederick Handel, composer, Halle, Germany, 1685; Mayer Amschel Rothschild, banker, Frankfurt, 1734; John Walter II. chief proprietor of The Times 1812-47, London, 1776; George Watts, painter, London, 1817; Norman Lindsay, artist and novelist. Creswick. Victoria, 1879; Karl Jaspers, Existentialist philosopher, Oldenburg, Germany, 1883; Victor Fleming, film director, Pasadena, California, 1883; Erich Kastner, writer, Dresden. 1899.

DEATHS: Sir Joshua Reynolds, first president of the Royal Academy 1768-92. London, 1792: John Keats, poet, Rome, 1821: John Quincy Adams. sixth American President 1825-29, Boston, Massachusetts, 1848: Carl Friedrich Gauss, mathematician, Göttingen. 1855; William Butterfield, architect of the Gothic revival. London, 1900; Thomas Woodrow Wilson, twenty-eighth American President 1913-21. Nobel Peace laureate 1920, Washington, 1924; Dame Nellie Melba, soprano, Sydney, New South Wales, 1931; Sir Edward Elgar, Master of the King's Musick 1924-34. Worcester, 1934; Leo Hendrick Backeland, inventor of Bakelite, Beacon, New York, 1944; Paul Claudel, poet and dramatist, Paris, 1955; Stan Laurel (né Arthur Stanley Jefferson).

ifornia, 1965; L. S. Lowry. painter. Glossop, Derbyshire, 1976; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, Farnham, Surrey. 1983. The Cato Street conspiracy was uncovered, 1820.

comedian, Santa Monica, Cal-

Major Walter Winfield patented an outdoor game he called "sphairistike", later known as lawn tennis, 1874. The Rotary Club was founded in Chicago, 1905.

The February revolution began in Russia, 1917. The Fascist Party was founded in Italy by Benito Mussolini.

Dinners

Needlemakers' Company The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, received the guests at the annual dinner of the Needlemakers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Anthony Floyd, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor, Sir Anthony Wilson and Lord Howe of Aberavon, QC, also spoke. HM Government

Mr Jeremy Hanley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lan-caster House to bid farewell to the

Britain-Australia Society

The Australian High Commiswere present at the annual dinner held last night at the Dorchester hotel to mark the twenty-lifth anniversary of the society and Australia Day (January 26). Sir John Leahy, chairman, presided. Sir Colin Cowdrey and Mrs Sallyanne Atkinson, Senior Trade Commissioner for Australia in Paris, also spoke.

Securities Institute

Mr Kenneth Clarke, QC. MP, was the principal guest and speaker at a dinner of the Securities Institute held last night at the Carlton Club. Mr Graham Ross Russell, chairman, presided. Among those

The Chairman of the London Stock Exchange, the Chairman of the Securities and Futures Authority, the Chairman of LIFFE, the Chairman of the London Investment Banking Association and the Chief Executive of the Securities and

National Sporting Club Mr Stephen Hamer, a Director of the National Sporting Club, pre-sided at a dinner held last night at the Cafe Royal in aid of the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust. Mr Gareth Edwards was

Memorial services

Sir James Darling A memorial service for Sir James Darling, Head Master of Geelong Grammar School (1930-61), will be

held at Holy Trinity Church. Prince Consort Road, Kensington, on Wednesday, March 6, at noon. Mrs Angela Farnell

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Angela Farnell, Founder of the Elderly Accommodation Counsel, was held yes-terday at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory. Warwick Street, Soho. Father Francis Davis officiated.

Mr John St John Cooper read the lesson and Mr James Draper, trustee of the counsel, delivered the

Lady Fitt

A mass for Lady Firt was con-celebrated on Wednesday in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster. Father Michael Seed was the principal celebrant. Mr Vincent Hanna, sonin-law, led the bidding prayers. The Hon Mrs Millner, daughter, Lord Firt, husband, other mem-

bers of the family and members of both Houses of Parliament were among those present.

Appointment

The Lord Chancellor has appointed Mr Ian Forbes Pritchard-Witts (barrister) to be a full-time chairman of industrial tribunals (England and Wales) with effect from February 26.

Mr Pritchard-Witts, who was appointed a part-time chairman of industrial tribunals in February 1994, will be assigned to the

DEATHS



Chen Chen, who has an amazing repertoire for her age, and confidence to match

Girl, 9, chosen for festival

at 65 Davies Street, WI, to launch

the annual report and to mark the opening of "The Leading Edge", an

exhibition of current research by

individuals and project teams from

the Institute's five Colleges --Camberwell College of Arts, Cen-

rain Saint Martins College of Art and Design, Chelsta College of Art and Design, London College of Rashion, and London College of

Printing and Distributive Trades.

The guests included the Coun-sellor for Cultural Affairs and

Press, Mr René Schaetti. Swiss

A PIANO-PLAYING child prodigy who has been compared to Nigel Kennedy and Vannessa Mae has been chosen to play at a prestigious festival ahead of adults twice her

age. Chen Chen, nine, will play at the British Federation of Festivals' seventy-fifth anniver-sary celebration at the University of Warwick in July. The event has helped to launch the careers of classical music "stars" including

James Galway and Nigel Kennedy. Christopher Wiltshire, the festival's organiser, said that Chen Chen, who practises for two hours every day, has enormous potential. He said: "She's only nine years old but playing an amazing repertoire. Simply, her potential is enormous. We are very excited at having such a talent at the festival and I am sure she will go a long way."

She was selected to play at the national festival after being named the best musician at the Brownhills Festival, in the West Mid-lands, last October. Janice Robinson, secretary of the festival, said that the judges had no choice but to nominate Chen Chen.

HM Government

The London Institute

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Sec-retary of State for Foreign and

Commonwealth Affairs, was the

host yesterday at a reception given

by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of the

Western European Union

The Chairman of the London

Institute, Mr Julian E. Markham,

sor John McKenzie, were hosts at

receptions held on Tuesday, February 20, and Wednesday, Feb-

mary 21, in the Institute's Gallery

and the Institute's Rector, Profes

Receptions

"She has such talent, and is very confident when she is under pressure. She does not buckle and when you listen to her you realise that she has great promise. She heat off people more than twice her age to get this opportunity, and competitors who have much more experience than her. When I listen to her I can hear a new Nigel Kennedy."

Chen Chen, who came to Britain three years ago with her father. Keng Chen, a student, will be performing alongside more than 300 acts from dance, drama and music.

Her teacher at Birmingham Conservatoire where Chen Chen has earned a scholarshin, is similarly astounded at her pupil's talent. Beryl Chempkin said: "It is a fiercely competitive world but if she continues she could go to the top. "She has the natural talent and responds

very well to being taught. It is a joy to work with her and she is a very nice girl, no precocious at all. She plays just as well as people twice her age and often heats them in competitions. If she keeps it up there could be great things ahead for her."

St Peter's College, Oxford

Hughes Hall, Cambridge

University of Durham Keith Lindsey has been appointed Professor of Plant Molecular Biology. Internal promotions to chair: Mar-

tin Millett, Department of Archaeology; Ian Shennan,

University news

Honorary Fellowship: Lord Har-son; Emeritus Fellowship: Charles Denis Sanderson; Democracy 2500: Research Fellowship in Ac-

Elected to a fellowship in Class A: Nicholas Sinclair Brown, Anthony Keene Rodgers.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.A.E. Costello and Miss M.E. Painter The engagement is announced

John Costello and Dr Christine Costello, of Wimbledon, and Marion, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Palmer, of Newmarket

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs J.E. Crozier, of Pill, Avon, and Sarah Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Knecht, of Manhattan

and Miss M. Poole

Mr D.T. Harding and Miss N.A.C. Davemport The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Captain and Mrs Roy Harding, of Helensburgh, and Nichola, daughter of Mr and Mrs George L

Mr C.L.D. James and Ms S.M.C. MacDonald The engagement is announced between Christopher James, of Torosay Castle, Isle of Mull, and

Mr R.J. Jenning and Miss E.J. Chopping
The engagement is announced
between Richard John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P.J. Jennings, of Gawsworth, Cheshire, and

Camperley, Surrey. Mr D.B. Shapiro and Miss L.H. Stanton

Carl Shapiro, of Manchester, and Lisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Stanton, of Harrow, Middlesex.

G.M. Jones, of Swansea, and Rosanna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C. Birnie Reid, of Cults,

between Decian, eldest son of Dr

Mr S.T. Crezier and Ms S.J. Knecht

Beach, Los Angeles, California: Mr. R.J. Frith The engagement is announced between Benjamin, second son of Mr and Mrs William Frith, of Mr and Mrs William Fritt. In Lizards Lean, Warwick, Bermuda, and Michele, only daughter of Mr and Mrs George Poole, of Langshou, Florley, Surrey.

Davenport, of Welwyn Garden

Sarah MacDonald, of Oban and Edinburgh.

Emma-Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs RJ. Chopping, of

The engagement is announced between David. son of Dr and Mrs

Lieutenant G.D. Jones, RN, and Miss R. Birnie Reid
The engagement is announced between Gareth, younger son of Mr A.J. Jones and the late Mrs.

Mr O.N. Preston and Lady Cressida Ward The engagement is announcy between Oliver, son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Preston, of Tetbury. Gloucestershire, and Cressida. youngest daughter of The Earl and L Countess of Dudley, of Kensing

ton, London. Mr G.N. Lawson Tancred and Miss E.K. Manger

The engagement is announced between Gerald, younger son of Sir Henry Lawson-Tancred, Bt, and the late Jean, Lady Lawson-Tancred, of Aldborough, North Yorkshire, and Eruna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Manger, of Crowborough, East

MrA.R.G. Lum and Miss C.L. Gierth The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robin Lunt, of Bramshott, Hampshire, and Christine, younger daughter of Mrs Valerie Gierth and the late Mr Ronald Gierth, of Shepperton.

Mr R.D. Taylor and Miss E.M.L. Beauchamp The engagement is announced between Rod, grandson of Mr and Mrs John Duncan and nephew of Mr and Mrs Rodney Allen, of Cape Town, South Africa, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Beauchamp, of Dorchester,

Mr R.I.H. Jackson and Miss A.M. Hebeler

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Jackson, of Donhead St. Mary, Wiltshire, and Alexandra, elder daughter of Mark Simon Hebeler, of Hexham, Northumberland, and Mrs Simon Pease and stepdaughter of Mr. Simon Pease, of Rirkby Lonsdale,

Marriage

Mrs Adrian Scrope.

Commander D. Scott, RN, retd. and Miss T.M. Scrope The marriage took place on February 22, at the Church of Our Most Holy Redermer and St Thomas More, Cheyne Row, of Commander David Scott, RN, rend, to Miss Theresa Scrope, second daughter of the late Mr and

School news

Edgehill / College, Bideford The Governors are pleased to announce the following scholar-ships and exhibitions for Septem-ber 1996:

Kayleigh

— Christopher

13+ scholarships - Frances Mar-

tin, Elizabeth Sherry. 117 13+ exhibition — Johnston Gill-Wycombe Abbey School Scholarship awards 1996

The Wycombe Abbey open scholarship: Pia FitzGerald, Norman Court School. man Court School.

The William Johnston Yapp scholarship Lucinda Makerey,

High March School

Lecture

Company of World Traders The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, introduced the Company of World Traders' annual Tacitus lecture, sponsored by the London School of Foreign Trade. which was delivered by Mr Yusef Shirawi, last night at Guildhall.

Jointy: Laura Oakley and Nishma Shah, Maltmans Green School. The Whitelaw, scholarship (for music: Nicolette Wong, Diocesan

The Centenary scholarship:

Girls' School, Hong Kong. The Constitutaite scholarship: Rebecca Cox, Wycombe Abbey.

der.

The Walpole scholarship: Emily Geddes, St Christopher's School, Minor scholars

Georgina Thomson, St Paul's C of E School, N21. Exhibitions: Zie Barber, Bute House :: Preparatory School:

Katharine Hirst, Wycombe Abbey; Karrina Morley-Fletcher (for art). Highfield School: Amanda Mur-phy, Wycombe Abbey: Katherine. Robertson (for piano), Wycombe Abbey: Charlotte Simpson, S Anselm's School

Wycombe Abbey School (charity No. 310638) promotes the edu-cation of girls.

Mr Bryan Montgomery, Master of the Company, and the Senior and Junior Wardens were present.

Reunion The "Ox and Cow"

The Oxford and County Business (Secretarial) College will be hold-ing a Diamond Jubilee Reunion, in Oxford, on Saturday, October 19, 1996. We should be delighted to hear from ex-students and teachers who would like to attend and/or who would like to join our alumni network. Please contact Rosemary

FAX: 0171 481 9313

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272

PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

What is man, that you should remember him, a man, that you should care for him? You made him for a short while subordinate to the angels: with ploty and bonour you crowned him. Hebrews 2: 6, 7 (RES)

BIRTHS

DORRIEN-SMITH - On February 19th 1996, to Lucy and Robert, a son. Tristan

HOLLYWOOD - On February 18th 1996, to Joann and Richard, a beautiful beby son, George Thomas. HOWE - On February 19th at

Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Lynda (nie Barnett) and Martin, a daughter, Jeruster Rosalind, a sister for Philip JONES - On February 15th, in Hong Kong, to Jame (née Walker) and Michael, a ma. a dister for

Sam and Jos.

LUSH - On February 15th. to Albon (née Clark) and Paul. a daughter. Tamsin Phili. - On February 20th, to Patricia (née Evershed) and Francis, a son. Antony John Beechey, a brother for Felicity and Imagen.

RUTLAND - On February 14th 1996, to Claire and Hugo, a son, a brother for Archie and Eliza. VRIES - On 19th February, to Joseph (não Hart) and Minze, twins, Emily Kaie and Lucy Susannah, sisters for

ARMSTROMG - Dr. Terence E.. on February 21st, enddenly, at hotne, at Harston, Husband of hris: failer of Kevin, Sen, Defrire and Demarts, Funeral for Jordy, personal and village Armede downtions to Harston Church Rentoration Fund (c/o Harston Vicarane

(c/o Harston Vicarage. Church Street, Harston, Cambridge CB2 5NP). Memorial Service Later. SERWY - On 17th February 1996 at Queen Charlotte, and Chetiera Hoopital, to Charlotte (née Kincaid) and Michael, a son. James Hueston. BROOKS - On February 19th, to Suzy (nee Kravitz) and Nicholas, a daughter, Holly BLOOMFIELD - John Patrick.
Pescentry on 19th February
1996 at St Bartholomew's
Hospital after a long Mines.
Requiers mass at St
Editator's Loughton. Essex
on Friday, 1st March 1996 at
1 pm, No flowers. Donations
6 St. Learning Heattles i pm, No flowers. Donations to St Joseph's Hospice, Hackney or MacMilian Appeal c/o funeral directors Wartner & Sons, 32 Church Hill, Loughbon, Emer. KG10 1LA tai: (0181) 508-9409. born on February 16th 1996 at St Michael's Hospital. Bristol, to Paula and Nick.

EROWN - Michael Basil.
Landscape Architect, on February 20th 1996, and 72. after short illness. Private cremation. Friends warmly welcome to service on Baharday 24th February at 5 pm. Friends Meeting House. Market Street. Caselbury. Family flowers only, Donations if desired to Park Attwood Cinic (Re. Michael Brown), Trimpley. Bewdley, Worts. DY12 1RE.

BURROUGHS - On 21st February 1996 peacefully after a courageous fight against cancer. Jean Margaret, formerly head teacher of Pulham Cross School and Director of Education partners overses. School and Director of Education partners overses. Sadly released by her many friends, relations and celleagues. Funeral Service to take place on Wednesday 28th February at 1.20 pm at the Mortaics Crematorium. No flowers please but donations if desired in her memory may be sent to Research into Ovarian Canter (R.O.C.). PO Box 5872. London SW15 1XR. All enquiries to Andrew Holmes on (0.181) 872-3277.

DEATHS COOTE - Anthony Benjamin
(Tony) on 21st February
1996 at St Matthews
Hospfish Northampinn, after
a short Einess, Much loved
father, grandfather and
rivend. Funeral Service at St
Nicholas's Church.
Oversione, on Thursday
25th February at 11.30 am
followed by private
cremation. Family flowers
only. Donations if desired to
Multiple Sciences Society or

COX - On February 15th. suddenly but peacerdity at home. Frances Elisabeth M.B.E. sped 90 years. Private family service at The North East Surrey Crematorium on Tuesday February 27th at 2 pm. Floral tributes or donations for Arthritis & Ribeumalism Council (A.R.C.) to W.A. Truelove & Son. 118 Carshalton Road, Sutton. SMI 4RL let: (0181) 442.

DICKINSON - Patrick Henry aged 68, petternily on 21s February at Scunthorp Concept Mosaltel belows February at Scunthorpe General Hospital, beloved husband of Angela, much loved father of Louise. Judini, Jame and Becky and loving grandfather to George, Churles, Marco. Sarah, Emma and James. Private burial at St Alkmund's Church. Blyborough on 24th February, Memorial Service at St Andrew's Church. Kirton-in-Lindsey on Wednesday, 28th February 10.50 pp. Services. Wednesday. 28th February at 10.30 am. Family flowers only. Densilens to Scunthorpe Hacthartology Ward. Cheutes payable to The P.H. Dickinson Memorial Account. Blyborough DEATHS

GREENACRE - On Tousier
February 20th, peacefully
after a long libres, Lady
Elizabeth Marjory (nee
Lindessy-Bethune), adored
mother of Philip. Londes and
Andrew and grandmother of
Georgie, Private service for
faculty only, on Wednesday
February 28th. Funeral
Service in Kilconquiar;
Parish Church, Fife on
Saturday March 2nd et Span,
All friends welcome, family
flowers only please. A All friends welcome, family flowers only please. A Service of Thanksgiving will also be hald at St Andrew's Charth. Ham Common, on Thursday April 18th at 3cm. All friends will be welcome. Donations please to Marie Carrie Cancer Care. 28 Belgrave Square, London SWIX 8QG.

ARRISON - Mary Reed (Melly) M.A. FRIBA peacefully in baspital on 19th February 1996 april 87 19th February 1996 aged 87 years. A Thanksolving Service will be held at All Saints Church, St Ives. Cambs, on Wednesday 28th February 1996 at 5 um, Any donations please may be made payable to either the Lapray Mission or the Thet Support Croup and tent to Dennis Easton Funeral Service. The Ledge, Sread Lass, St Ives, Huntingdom, Cambs, or left at the Church at the time of Thanksylving Service.

HUME - Lady Catherine (Katinka), née Willoughby d'Eresby. On Feb 1996 pencerully a in Charlottesville m Charlosswille, Virgina, aged 89. A service in celebration of the life of Camerne W Hume will be held at 11 o'clock on Thursday. February 29th, 1996 at St Paul's Episcopal Church, key, Virginia, USA. Burial will be at a later date in Education. It incommittee

In THURN - Richard died at home on 20th February after a short times. Requiren Mass at St Thomas of Countrius, Ryston Road, Fulham, SWG on Thursday 29th February at 11 am. No Howert-Donations if desired to Marie, Corle Cancer Care, 28 Belgirave Square, London SWIX 9QC.

CEMBLE - On February 19m
1996 in hospital Dr. Alam
Robert BSc. Ph.D. of Carlyon
Bay, Corrovall. Dearly loved
husband of Gwen. Private
cremation service in
Witshire. Family only. No
flowers please but donations
if desired for the citals of
Haemaniony and Oncology,
Trelisize Hospital c/o Mr Ken
Nevocanios. Banders Luna.
Holmbrosh. St Anglett, Pl.28
3,IN. (01726) 78869.

peacetoily at his home in Frinton on Sera. Captain Charles Kenneth (Ken) Knight aged 82 years, Member of the Honourable Member of the Honourable
Company of Master
Mariners. Much loved
husband of Iris. a dearly
loved father to Pamela.
Deborah and Lindsay, dear
grandfather of Chies.
Charlotte. Roland and
Charles. Fumeral Service to
hake place at St Mary's
Parish Charch. Friptus-onSea. on Wednesday
February 28th at 2 pm
followed by cremation.
Flowers may be cent c/o
p.C. Onley Ltd.. 47 High
Street, Walton-on-the-Naza.

LEAN - At home on February 22nd. 1996, after a defined and gulay fight against cancer, harperet Anne (sie 12nt). Beloved wife of Muckhart Parab Church on Tuesday, February 27th at 11.30 am. Panny flowers only but donations in Bed to Canter Relief Macmilian

WEAD - Lt Col Edward Michael Koecher Mend, OBE. Michael Koecher Meed. OBE.
TD, late of The lims of Court
Regiment, aged 98, died
peacefully on 20th February.
Dearty loved breaked for 62
years of Lesiey: very special
father of John, Joanna.
Richard and their families. A
True Gestie Man. There will
be a family funesti service Minterbourne, if desired dossitions may be made to St. Affichaet's Parochial Church Council, T.B. & H. Pendock.

Funeral Directors Hambrock, Bristol BS16

DEATHS

MYNORS - Katherine Jamet Rickness Mynors, aged 13, much loved daughter of Charles and Jamet and eleter of Etzabeth, died pesceluly at home on 20th February 1996. Elizabeth birthday, efter a couragents year-long struggle against home cancer. The funeral will be at 3 pm on Friday lat Merch, at 3there a Church. Booth Edilog, flowers or donations (to The Teelange Cancer Trust) c/o Christopher Wicknesden Puneral Service, 71 Greenford Avenue, 71 Greenford Avenue,

Wichmiden Petteral Services, 71 Greenford Avenue, Hanwell, London W7 1LJ. Har both will be buried on the following day at St Weomards, Herefordshire: mily and clone friends an Musgrave Born 1401 April 1924, Pencatulty at home on 9th February 1996, Descrip beloved wife of Arthur, mother of John and Liz, mother, by Jan.

Embassy. Sir Brian Goswell, Mr Hugh Dykes, MP, Sir Anthony and Lady Garner and Sir William PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS DATTS - On 17th Febru 1996. Andrey Mappers O

1995, Andrey Harmers Cain (née Downie), in her 96th year, devoled and loving wife of the late Colonel Henry Caths, formenty of the 17th Dogra Regt. (Indian Army) and Call Lodge, Kinadirat, by Osen, Angel, mother of Robin and Pairick, grandmother of six and great-grandmother of eight. greet-transmother of eight.
Funeral Service at
Kilmektort Parish Church.
by Oban, Argyll, at 2 pm on
Wednesday 28th February
1996 and thereafter to filminyer Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired may be sent to itsmetford Church;

1068 - On Fabruary 21st in hospital, Professor-Claud come - On February 2018 in hospital, Professor Claud Richard (Dick) Moss, aged 71. Hon. Vice-President Europein Investment Bank since 1989. Funeral private. SHAW - Dr. G.K.M. This is to announce the sad loss on 20th February 1996 of Dr. Ken Shew, the greatly loved instead of Reine and father of James, Private funeral to be held on Tuesday. 27th February 1996, at Edindille Church. Morayahire. Donations please to the Stillsh Heart Foundation. A Memorial Service will be

British Haurt Foundation. A Memorial Service will be held at 2.30 pm on wednesday, 1.3th March 1996, at 20 compensate and celebrate his life and work. Kest, the noblest smoon men, with his abiding fulful in human, nature and opmosphy of spirit, will be greatly missed by his patients, his rivends, his eventowing family and all eventowing family and all eventowing family and all everloving family and all who knew him. We will charish his memory. TENNANT Constant
Marion peacefully of
Pebruary 21st 1996
Requien Mass at the Calto Bristol, at 12 noon or Wednesday 28th February: Committed will be at 8t Richard's, Chichester, at 2.50 pm on Thursday 29th February. No flowest picture but donations if desired in

DEATHS USSHER - Neville Arland, beloved bushand of Marguerita dearly loved father of Patrick, Richard and Caristopher and a much loved grandfather. Pesostilly on February 21st 1996. Thanksping Service on Monday February 25th at 12 noon, at All Baints Church, Harewood, Family Sowers only, Doustions, if

> WITTET - Peggy. At the Lypedoch Nursing Home Lynedoch Nursing Home Edinburgh on 20th Pehruary 1996, after a long Blees, Peggy Joan. Audrey (née Whitzul) aged 74 years, Beloved wife of the late Michael and mother of long beloved wife on the law Michael and mother of lan and Mark. A funeral service with he held at St Andrew's R.G. Church. Belford Road. Edithurgh on Saturday 24th YOUNG - Gran y quietly at home on russy 17th 1996 after a

MEMORIAL SERVICES

present zoon namen at zen present he firmingiving in catetours the firm work of Str Suphen Spender will be beld on Wednesday 2016 March at Josa at the church of St Martin-in-the-Fields Trajinger Square, WC2. At the wednesday

THANKSGIVING SERVICES EVANS - A Service of Thankspiving for the life of Lionel James Carbon Russ and he held at \$2 Swithing IN MEMORIAM

GOLDEN

- Al Bucklebury, Berbahra, on 23rd February 1946 Major John Rylance Bradshaw, Royal Signels, (Jack) to Dorothy Mary Bottomiey (Babs). Dec gratiss. Now in Dorchester, Dorset. PUBLIC NOTICES

Anyone knowing the where-closes of CEORGE EDWARD WALDING please contact Bridges & Bridges, Mar Finders, Sam-inenie, California, (Phone Cit.c) 451 0571, Fair (B16) 451 0592.) Sama in Northemplaneihre, 1912. 451 Upra. Somethemplementure, and the Service As a compount in the Service Artiflery, lept seem so a bar-lease in Landon in 1960's. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

A sightal Youngchang, Weiser & Yamaha, Citedeova main destar. Rantal/ Purchase solien, Free cabdogue. The Plano Workshop, 20 Highester Mr. Lendon, NVS. 0171 267 7571 & 111 Ewell Rd. Burbhoon, Saxrey 0181 399 4110

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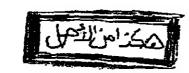
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JBITUARIES

LORD MARSHALL OF GORING

Lord Marshall of Goring, CBE. IRS, former chairman of the tomic Energy Authority and the Central Electricity Generating Board, died of cancer on February 20 aged 63. He was born on March 5, 1932.

OR more than two decades, Walter larshall was the most eloquent okesman and principal cheerleader nuclear power in Britain. A monalist who fell among politicians ad emerged bruised, he never quite oderstood why his arguments so hen fell on deaf ears. But he remained abowed, the epitome of the scientistngineer who believes that all things

He was born in Rumney, Cardiff, ie son of a baker, and early showed igns of high intelligence and an openie for work. On his first day at shool he disdained the sandpit and sisted to his teacher that he wanted to

At seven he identified an error in a raths test book, and at 17 he was the pungest-ever undergraduate at Birningham University. He graduated vith a first in mathematical physics at 0, and took his PhD at 22.

His emergence as a fully-fledged cientist coincided with the innocent ptimism of the 1950s, when nuclear lower was seen as an endless and nexpensive source of electricity, so it vas almost inevitable that he should e drawn to work at the Atomic Energy lescared Establishment at Harwell. le spent a year at the University of alitymia, and another at Harvard, eine becoming head of the theoretical physics division at Harwell in 1960, leputy director in 1966, and director in

He was elected FRS in 1971 and appointed CBE in 1973.

Walter Marshail combined intellechal brilliance with a forthright manper and a bulky presence which some found unnerving. Once satisfied of the exchanical merits of a case, he was impatient with doubters and prone to nail his colours too firmly to the mast, leaving him little room for retreat. His accent had a strange Germanic quality which added to the mystique. His energy was formidable.

Marshall's reign at Harwell was successful and he began the process of .. directing the laboratory away from nuclear physics and into broader areas of research, which continues today. In 1974 he made a fateful step, becoming chief scientist at the Department of Energy, in uneasy harness with the

Energy Secretary, Tony Benn. By this time Benn had emerged from he chrysalis of his early career as a



technocrat and metamorphosed into a born-again leftwinger with decided views on nuclear power. The relation-ship with Marshall was bound to be explosive, and so it proved. To Marshall's plaint that there was no lobby for nuclear power in Britain, Benn once replied: Yes there is, Walter, and you look at it every morning when .vou're shaving."

While Marshall did his best to promote the building of pressurised water reactors in Britain. Benn did all he could to undermine the whole concept of the peaceful atom. A parting of the ways was inevitable, and it came when Mershall was sacked from his post in 1977. "It was awful," he later

during the miners' strike of 1984 and thereby making a major contribution to the outcome. At the beginning Marshall had to

Thatcher for keeping the lights on

make a tough decision. Would the strike be a long one, justifying the immediate burning of expensive oil in power stations his predecessors had ordered years before? He believed so and did it, promising to resign if he was wrong, and the action cost the CEGB dear. He was right, and emerged as a life peer in 1985 on Mrs Thatcher's recommendation. But he could never have done it if the CEGB had not over-ordered plant in the 1970s, building up a huge generating surplus which Marshall deployed so brilliantly to see off Arthur Scargill.

This was Marshall's finest hour, but disappointment lay ahead. The Chernobyl disaster of 1986 shook confidence in nuclear power, though Marshall was quick to identify and publicise the technical flaws of the Soviet reactor responsible, and contrast it with Western designs. In spite of his efforts, however, the nuclear

dream was now turning sour.
In 1989 there was a further setback. Once again he had staked his job, this time promising to go if the CEGB was not preserved intact after privatisation. Cecil Parkinson, then Energy Secre-tary, rightly decided that competition could be achieved only if the company was split. Then, at the very last moment, nuclear power was pulled from the privatisation when its true costs were finally disclosed.

Marshall stalked away from Whitehall once more, never to return. He founded the World Association of Nuclear Operators and was appointed its first chairman, advised insurance syndicates and represented foreign power companies, but these were jobs below his true merit. Having staked his career from the outset on the promise of nuclear power, he suffered eclipse just as surely as it did.

Lord Marshall won many awards and medals, including the Kelvin Medal, the Maxwell Medal for Theoretical Physics, and - inappropriately, some may feel - the Henry DeWolf Smyth Nuclear Statesman Award. He was never a statesman, but never a trimmer, either. He said what he believed, loudly and clearly, and was happy to be judged by it. It distressed him that arguments he found so powerful left so many others unmoved.

Lord Marshall lived in Goring-on-Thames, where he cultivated a garden. practised origami, played croquet and kept up an interest in physics. He is survived by his wife Ann and a son and

MORTON GOULD

Morton Gould, American composer, conductor and pianist, died in Orlando, Florida. on February 21 aged 82. He was born on December 10, 1913.

MORTON GOULD was a classical composer în a particularly American mould, who built bridges between the concert hall and popular music, and who wrote several works which have become standards of light music. Like George Gershwin and

Aaron Copland. Gould em-ployed familiar jazz and folk idioms in his compositions, putting them to more formal. classical use. And, like Erroll Garner, he was able to improvise delightfully at the piano from a theme submitted by the audience. This latter ability spilt over into his concert works, making him particu-larly susceptible to jazz influences, and giving his work a great rhythmic freedom.

He was also an extremely versatile composer. From his first composition at the age of six to the winning of the Pulitzer Prize for Music last year. Gould worked on almost every aspect of musical entertainment: radio and television. films, ballet and theatre work, as well as on the concert stage. Much of his work had a strongly patriotic flavour, which might explain why he was not better known ourside America.

The son of an Austrian father who worked as an estate agent, and a Russian mother, Gould was brought up in New York. He began improvising on the piano at the age of four, and thus became known as an infant prodigy - a rather tiresome abel to be reminded of when he was older and trying to establish himself as a serious

He published his first composition, a waltz entitled Just Six, two years later. At eight he was awarded a full scholarship to the New York Institute of Musical Art, later to become the Juilliard School of Music, under the patronage of its director, Walter Damroch. Gould went on to study

piano under Abby Whiteside at the New York University



School of Music, from which he graduated at the age of 15although still in high school for his regular education. But in 1930 he was forced to drop out of school when the Depression ruined his father. He then began to look to music as a full-time professional career.

He launched himself on a lecture-demonstration tour of East Coast universities. But, although this was well received, he soon turned to the more lucrative fields of the theatre and radio, evolving special musical forms that could fit into tight schedules. He called these "symphonettes" and "concertettes". From these came the melodious Pavane, the second movement of the Second American Symphonette (1935), which for many years was a staple of the light orchestra repertoire.

There was also Interplay originally known as American Concertette for piano and orchestra and composed for José Iturbi – which Jerome Robbins used as the score for his ballet Interplay. Late in 1942 Gould's Spirituals for Orchestra was performed.

The following year. Gould's first full symphony had its premiere. His second, performed by the New York Philharmonic was panned by the critics for its eclecticism;

but Gould persisted and turned out a stream of concert works over the next six years. By 1949 he was ranked, along with George Gershwin and Aaron Copland, as one of the three most popular American

He had his own touring orchestra, his own recording studio and his own music publishing concern. Pieces like American Salute and Cowboy Rhapsody were being played, it seemed, by almost every high school band and orchestra in the country.

Commissions flowed in over the next three decades. There were two Broadway shows: Billion Dollar Baby in 1945 and Arms and the Girl in 1950, and a stream of concert performances which he often conducted himself, including a 1966 appearance with the BBC Festival Orchestra in London. Gould had struck a nerve in the American musical

He said of his own work: Whatever newness there may be in my music is not so much a radical departure as an integration and crystallisation of influences in our native musical scene." He continued to work until the end of his life. Morton Gould is survived two sons and two

daughters.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER HUGH HODGKINSON

Lieutenant-Commande Hugh Hedgkinson. DSC and Bar, schoolmaster csurry c died on January 22 aged 84. de was born on January 13, 1912.

IU HIE" Hodgkinson's pproach to the education of oung people, both within and ithout the naval service, ould hardly be described as child-centred" or to have any ffinity with today's fashion-ble doctrines. His singular chievement was to lift Milton bbcy school, near Blandford Dorset, from a low point of boys and a parious bank lance to one of the country's

hools, with a recognisable

pupils and a waiting list. His belief, for example, that the officers must be tougher bly fashioned by his own naval upbringing Before being invalided out in 1948 with persistent sinus problems, he was given, as his final post in the Navy, one that was habitually given only to the best — teaching the 13-year-old new entry cadets at the Royal

Naval College, Dartmouth. One of his trainees remembers him as an admirable exemplar. To us schoolboys he was very glamorous, with his war record, his medals and his good looks. But he taught us the iron imperatives of our duty towards others and to the ost successful private Service, with wisdom and friendliness." hos of its own, more than 250

After leaving the Navy, he few years were spent teaching in two different schools in South Africa, a period in which he also had a useful year at Gordonstorn.

and applying for the job of a housemaster at Milton Abbey, he was told: "It's not a housemaster we need but a headmaster." Thus began 14 years of hard labour. The new headmaster introduced the custom of the early morning run, the uniform of lovat green shirt and shorts, an accent on "practical work" with the hands, regular chapel services and other measures now widely seen as archaic.

But behind these eye-catchesteem and extracted achievement beyond expectation, both inside and outside the class-TOOM.

Public rehabilitation came with the

election in 1979 of Margaret Thatcher,

the only politician ever really on

Marshall's wavelength. Mrs Thatcher

adored getting her head around com-

plex technical issues like global warm-

ing, arms control, or nuclear power,

perhaps suspecting this took her into

areas where her Cabinet colleagues seldom dared to tread. Marshall

Atomic Energy Authority, staying only a year in the post before inheriting the

chairmanship of the Central Electricity

Generating Board, a far riskier promi-

nence for one with his combination of

qualities. He was knighted in 1982 and

earned the undying grantude of Mrs

In 1981 he became chairman of the

proved the perfect fail.

Robert Hugh Hodgkinson joined the Navy in 1925. A Returning to Dorset in 1955 career in destroyers and minesweepers was enhanced by a tour in South Africa as ADC to the Governor-General; in South Africa he met his wife, Wendy, whom he married in 1938. At the beginning of the war he was second-in-command of the destroyer Harwester and then, throughout 1941, of the crack destroyer Hotspur, which was based at Alexandria.

Hodgkinson's book, Before

the Tide Turned (1944) took a history degree as a ing and often controversial describes how Hotspur took mature student at St Cather-initiatives flourished a quiet part in the Battle of Cape participation in the rescue of most of the British and Comtroops from monwealth Greece and Crete, an operation which was conducted throughout under relentless

air attack. Yet, although the Mediter ranean Fleet suffered terrible losses, the gratitude of the army it succoured - and the knowledge that the soldiers had been rescued to fight another day - was its reward. Admiral Cunningham's stirring call to his officers and men that "we must not let them [the Army] down had not gone unheede

In the dawn of May 29, 1941.

while in the the process of withdrawing from Crete, laden with rescued troops, Hotspur was ordered to turn back towards the coast and find the destroyer Imperial, which was crippled with defective steering gear. She was to take off the troops Imperial had evacuated and then sink her. This Hotspur accomplished and just managed to escape in broad daylight with, by that time, more than 900 soldiers crammed on board. Other ships of the evacuation force were not so lucky: the destroyer Hereward perished under air attack, and there were heavy casualties among the soldiers when the cruisers Orion and Dido were severely

Hotspur later suffered damage herself in an unpleasant surprise engagement with two large and powerful Vichy French destroyers, which in-

up from a furnace.



tercepted her and another British destroyer off the Lebanese coast between Tyre and Sidon. With their combined armament of ten 5.5-inch guns - almost a light cruiser armament - the Guépard and Valmy totally outgunned the British destroyers. Indeed, the

latter were lucky to escape, since the French ships were not only better armed but could also steam at 40 knots several knots faster than any British destroyer. Having extricated herself from this peril, Hotspur subsequently took

part in a dozen hazardous

supply runs into besieged Tobruk until that crucial strongpoint was relieved by th Army in D 1941. She also participated in the sinking of a U-boat.

Hodgkinson was repatriated with jaundice, and it was not until late 1943 that he was able to persuade the powersthat-be to give him a command, the Hunt class destroyer Pytchiey. In Pytchley, he earned his first DSC as a consequence of a brisk night action in the North Sea off Cromer, successfully protecting a convoy, at the cost of one armed trawler, against an attack by four flotillas of German E-boats numbering 32 craft. The convoy had, luckily, received advance warning of the approach of the enemy by RAF bombers which had sported the E-boats while returning from a raid over Germany

Hodgkinson's second DSC was awarded for his courage and determination as escort group commander off Gold Beach during the Normandy invasion. He ended the war in Tokyo Bay in command of the destroyer Wizard.

His later enthusiasms re sulted in a book about the flora and fauna of the Pyrenees, and an ornate silver bowl which is competed for annually with great rivalry by the sailing teams of Dartmouth, Cranwell and Sand-

An inspirational teacher and a bright light in the ambiguous world of today's education. Hughie Hodgkinson is survived by his wife Wendy and by their two sons and a daughter.

THE NEW GREEK ISLAND (From our Athens correspondent)

A new island began to rise above the level of the sea in the Bay of Thera (Santorin) on the 4th inst, and in five days it attained the height of from 130ft to 150ft, with a length of upwards of 350ft and a breadth of 100ft. It continues to increase, and consists of a rusty black metallic larva, very heavy, and resembling half-melted scoria that has boiled

The present eruption commenced on January 31. A noise like volleys of artillery was heard, but without any earthquake. On the following day flames issued from the sea, in a part of the bay called Bulkanos, where the water is always discoloured and impregnated with sulphur from abundant springs at the bottom. The flames rose at intervals to the height of 15ft, and were seen at times to issue from the southwestern part of Nea Kaimene. That island was soon rent by a deep fissure and the southern part sank considerably. On

ON THIS DAY February 23, 1866

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The Santorini region has since become a popular resort, because the volcano is inactive and there is the chance to peer into the defunct craters.

February 4 the eruptions became more violent. Gas forced itself up from the depths with terrific noise, resembling the bursting of a steam boiler; flames arose at intervals, and white smoke formed an immense column, crowned with a curled capital of dark heavy clouds. The new island was visible next morning, increasing sensibly to the eve as it rose out of the sea at no great distance.

ITALY: Florence, February 18 Just 40 in number are the Deputies who,

according to the latest published list, have inscribed their names to speak in the present debate - 40 thieves of the precious time of Italy.

Five of these orators have said their say in the first two days of the desultory discussion. If the remaining 35 proceed at the same rate, a vote will be come to on March 5. Fortunately, there is a chance that, when half a dozen more Deputies shall have spoken, the chamber will get weary, and will insist on an early close of the debate.

The pretext for all this debate is the Bill for granting two months' supplies - a grant that must be made if the administration of the country is to go on. It would be erroneous to imagine that the debate is on this topic, than which nothing seems further from the thoughts of the Chamber. Every honourable Deputy who has something to say, no matter on what topic, foists it into this discussion. One develops a financial plan, another makes a long speech on the reductions in the army, another takes for his theme the documents in the French Yellow-book ...

PERSONAL COLUMN

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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Home loan interest rate cut

■ The Nationwide Building Society cut its mortgage rate yesterday in a move to boost the housing market. The halfpoint cut and a corresponding increase in interest for savers will cost the society about half of its £400 million annual profit.

The money is being invested in customer loyalty in the face of the recent merger mania that has brought £1,000 handouts to members of societies that have combined or announced plans to become publicly quoted companies ...

Clowes freed on parole

■ Peter Clowes, who defrauded 18,000 investors of £16 million, was freed on parole yesterday after serving only four years of his ten-year jail term. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. said he was "reluctantly" bound by law to accept the Parole Board recommendation ..

Snow fun

Eton pupils were reminded that throwing snowballs in the vicinity of the school is forbidden after Prince William was said to have had his clothes filled with snow by classmates.... Page I

Scott retort

Sir Richard Scott entered the political battle on arms-to-Iraq last night by accusing ministers of selectively quoting his report to support their claims that he had Page 1 cleared them

Uister meetings

John Major unexpectedly arranged a round of meetings with Unionist and nationalist leaders as he sought to break the Northern Ireland deadlock.......Page 2

Hospital visit

The Princess of Wales toured Imran Khan's cancer hospital in Lahore, visibly moved by the distress of patients but seemingly oblivious to controversy surrounding her presence Page 3

Oil inquiry

The Transport Secretary ordered an independent inquiry into the Sea Empress accident, and a marine pollution expert said oil pollution could damage the Welsh coast for a decadePage 4

Bomb inquest

The bomb that killed the IRA terrorist Ed O'Brien exploded close to his right leg, the inquest into his death was told Page 5

Separate lessons

The Education Secretary refused to send inspectors to check the standard and content of segregated religious teaching at a Birmingham school........Page 6

Discrimination claim

Resistance to equal opportunity policies has grown while bullying and racist and sexist jokes remain part of police life, according to

Bunker mentality

Albania is covered by more than 700,000 reinforced concrete bunkers, indestructible monuments to 45 years of paranoid Communist dictatorship Page 10

Defence shake-up

President Chirac has unveiled sweeping plans to overhaul the defence establishment. He will drastically reduce troop numbers, phase out compulsory military service and streamline the armaments industries Page II

Palestine talks

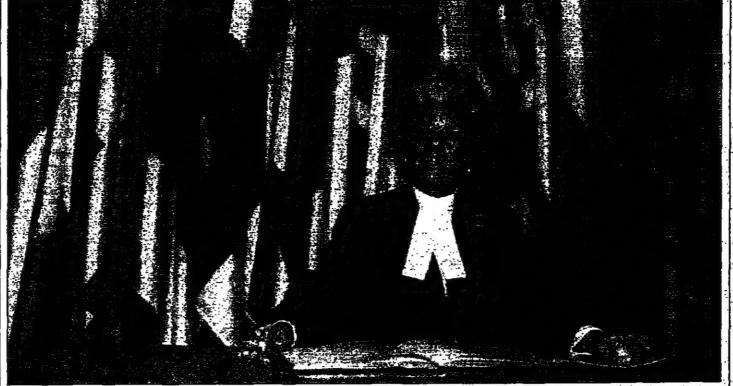
The senior adviser to the Israeli Prime Minister has held secret talks with Palestinian leaders and is on record as saying there will be a new Palestinian state within two years

Free run ends Pat Buchanan's free run ended as

leading Republicans, the and foreign governments lashed out at his protectionism and alleged

The long road to fatherhood

Couples take four to six months longer to achieve a pregnancy if the man spends more than three hours a day in his car, according to a study by French researchers. They believe the reason is probably lower sperm counts caused by the increased temperature of the testicles from sitting so long in a fixed position...



Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the Commons, opens an extraordinary session of the Western European Union at Church House, London

BUSINESS

Profits demage: British Gas unveiled the profits damage it sustained after the company was hit by a shareholders' revolt over salaries and the gas regulator cast doubt on its financial viability...... Page 21

Profits up: ICI announced a neardoubling of pre-tax profits yesterday from £588 million to £951 million during 1995...... Page 21

Media: Carlton Communications' tentative plan to launch a £1.5 billion spoiler bid for MAI, the rival that plans to merge with United News & Media, was effectively halted .. Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 14.4 to close at 3740.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 83.7 to 83.6 after a fall from \$1.5448 to ...Page 24

Cricket: England beat Holland by 49 runs in a World Cup match in Peshawar with no style but with the comfort of achieving qualification for the quarter-finals Page 40

Golf: Severiano Ballesteros accepted the offer of the captaincy of Europe's team for the Ryder Cupmatch at Valderrama, Spain, in September 1997 Page 40

Rugby union: Simon Mason, the Orrell fullback, will make his debut for Ireland against Wales on March 2. Ireland make eight. changes in all; Wales are _ Page 40 unchanged ..

Football: Jan Molby, the Liverpool midfield player, has been appointed player-manager of Swansea City, who are next to bottom of the second division Page 40

Laughing all the way: Whatever kind of show it may be, the new Gulp Fiction is certainly a lot of fun for its audience, reports Benedict. Nightingale

Bad start: A routine production of Rigoletto launches English Touring Opera's annual tour in shaky

Behind the scenes: You think that you saw the Brit Awards on television this week, but you missed all the most important bits, thanks to a little bit of screen censor-..... Page 30

Singer speaks: Alanis Morissette is one pop star who does not have to rely on the tricks of the trade. She has her talent to carry her _ Page 31

IN THE TIMES

Tom Bower on Nick Leeson's Rogue Trader.

during the day but it will be mainly cloudy with outbreaks of rain during

the afternoon. Dry later. Wind southerly, light becoming mod-erate. Feeling cold. Max 5C (41F).

Channel Isles, SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland: cloudy and mainly dry start. Rain during moming, brighter with showers later. Wind south to southwesterly, moderate May OC (485)

LINE England, Borders, Edin-burgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: mainly dry and bright start but showers for a time. Dry by

dusk. Wind southerly fresh or

I Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland; rain and sleet. Brighter by the afternoon. Sleet and snow after dark. Wind

southerly strong. Max 6C (43F).

spells, but rain in the southeast.

Outlook: showers and sunny

erate. Max 9C (48F).

strong, Max 8C (48F).

Lynne Truss on the

world according to

Reader offer: take a

friend to a concert

MUSIC

POOK2

Mike Leigh

tem areas. There will

☐ General: England and Wales

will have a mainly cloudy start with

mist and fog slow to clear from

be some bright spells for a time early in the day, but overcast skies and outbreaks of rain will spread

from the west during daylight hours. Scotland and Northern Ireland

will have a wet start with sleet and rain although the east coast may be briefly dry around dawn.

The persistent rain will clear from

weather and blustery showers following. Eastern parts of Scotland will be dry by the alternoon.

London, Central S, SE England, E Anglis: mist and fog patches clearing, some bright spells developing. Outbreaks of

rain during the evening and night. Wind westerly light becoming southerly moderate. Max 6C (43F)

☐ E, W Midlands, Central N, E

England: mist and fog clearing

central and ea

for 30p

Lady of note: Valerie Grove talks to Baroness Hollis of Heigham about divorce settlements, singing and the attractions of new Page 14

Wheel of fortune: Giles Coren visits Britain's casinos, a world of blackjack, roulette wheels and sexual games Page 15

Mind the gap: Julia Llewellyn Smith on why a gap year is simply an opportunity to drink cheap beer and lie in the sun all day .. Page 15

University challenge: As the Government announces an inquiry into higher education. David Bhunkett explains Labour's vision of lifelong learning while Don Foster reveals

Off course: "I left it on the Great Wall of China." James Ardglass on classic excuses for not handing in homework on time......Page 33

the Lib Dems plans Page 33

If Europe must be emphasised by a strong Franco-German axis it cannot boil down to this couple out Italy, founding member of the Common Market, without Spain, a great Mediterranean power, and without Great Britain, the country of the City.

Proview: Topical humour with bite is promised in The Mark Thomas Comedy Product (Ch 4, 10.30pm) Review: Lynne Truss on a hop bh watchable insect series Page 39

Islam at school

Squabbles among religious denominations stunted the growth of England's education system in the last century. Squabbles over the properplace for our established religious traditions could equally blight the development of Britain's schools in the next Page 17"

Euromyths three

The argument that "Europe" would carry more weight by pooling sovereignty is subject to the test of pragmatism. It can be valid only when working together is more

Land of eagles

Albania has sought to learn the ways of the West with an innocent enthusiasm that has heartened international lenders; and it has shown that a little know-how assistance, sensibly applied, can bring enormous changes Page 17

PETER RIDDELL

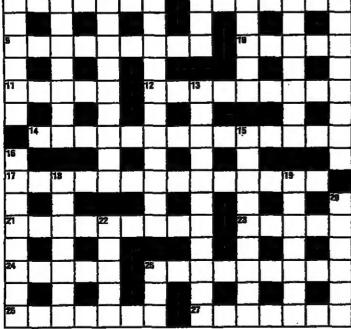
The conventions of Westingister work against an anti-establishment: populist Enoch Powell was perhaps the last to attract the support. But his personality and instincts were the opposite of a Buchanan

BERNARD LEVIN

There is, I regret to say, a body of people - not necessarily ignorant of the arts and particularly music who rejoice every time the gloomy Covent Garden financial figures are announced. What is ! more, there are genuine opera-lovers who would love to see Covent

Garden go down the hole, never to reappear Lord Marshall of Goring, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority and the Central Electric ISLAMIC ## trante: ity Generating Board; Morto Gould, American composer; Lies in the courts. kinson, destroyer captain. Page In the state of The many المنت المنتج المنتج and Georgia: Calls for Lyell's resignation; tank the sarries disaster: hereditary peers. Page – Le Monde 241 m approxime.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,098



- **ACROSS** I Male has to shed stone to get into driver's compartment (7).
- 5 Where convict brought round depressed goes finally? (7). 9 Spears food for practical cat (9). 10 White linen garment old farm
- labourer found a little short (5). 11 A pipe to have right after the cheese (5). 12 Leisure attraction in soccer
- ground I objectively found (5.4). I 14 i have ideal - seek to repair dreadful memory (4,4.1.5).
- 17 Bookmaker's work is complete and conclusive (7,7). 21 Ruthless old republican leader
- attending party gathering at last (3-3-3).23 Objection to church being aggres-
- sively masculine (5). 24 Distribution network for heroin's ending in Thailand, just about (5).
- Solution to Puzzle No 20,097

- 25 To banish cares is to unwind (9). 26 City making an end of many
- 27 Compensation in respect of duds

I Taxi-driver retains right to be irritable (6). 2 Upset stemming from proof how

big one's head is? (7).

- 3 Bird to leave hilltop (9). 4 Mean and drunk, delivered punch
- (5-6).5 Flop is taken over, becoming something that's fun (3).
- 6 It's cruel to work for someone's 7 Incense put in extremely unusual
- case, silver (7). 8 Gem king left in less extravagant
- setting (8). 13 Engraves tin with representation showing Venus (7.4).
- 15 Agree with directors this could be shelved (9). 16 Much is caught here, but many

may be dropped (8).

19 Compound to hear exploit of Paul Revere? (7).

18 Music paper appearing promptly?

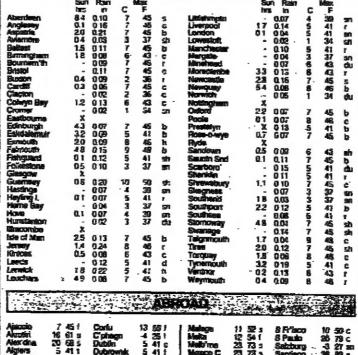
- 20 Encourages for so long (6).
- 22 Tax-free saving mounted to such a benefit (5). 25 It's time someone spoke of us (3).
 - Times Two Crossword, page 40

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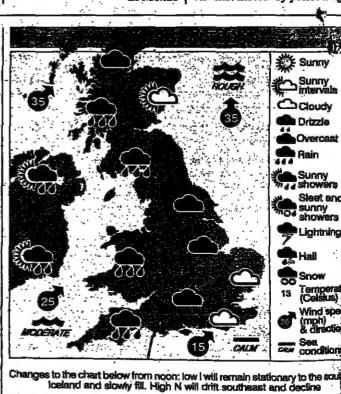
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Sleet and sunny showers <u>Lightning</u> Snow 60

Changes to the chart below from noon: low I will remain stationary to the s lockand and slowly fill. High N will drift southeast and decline

